

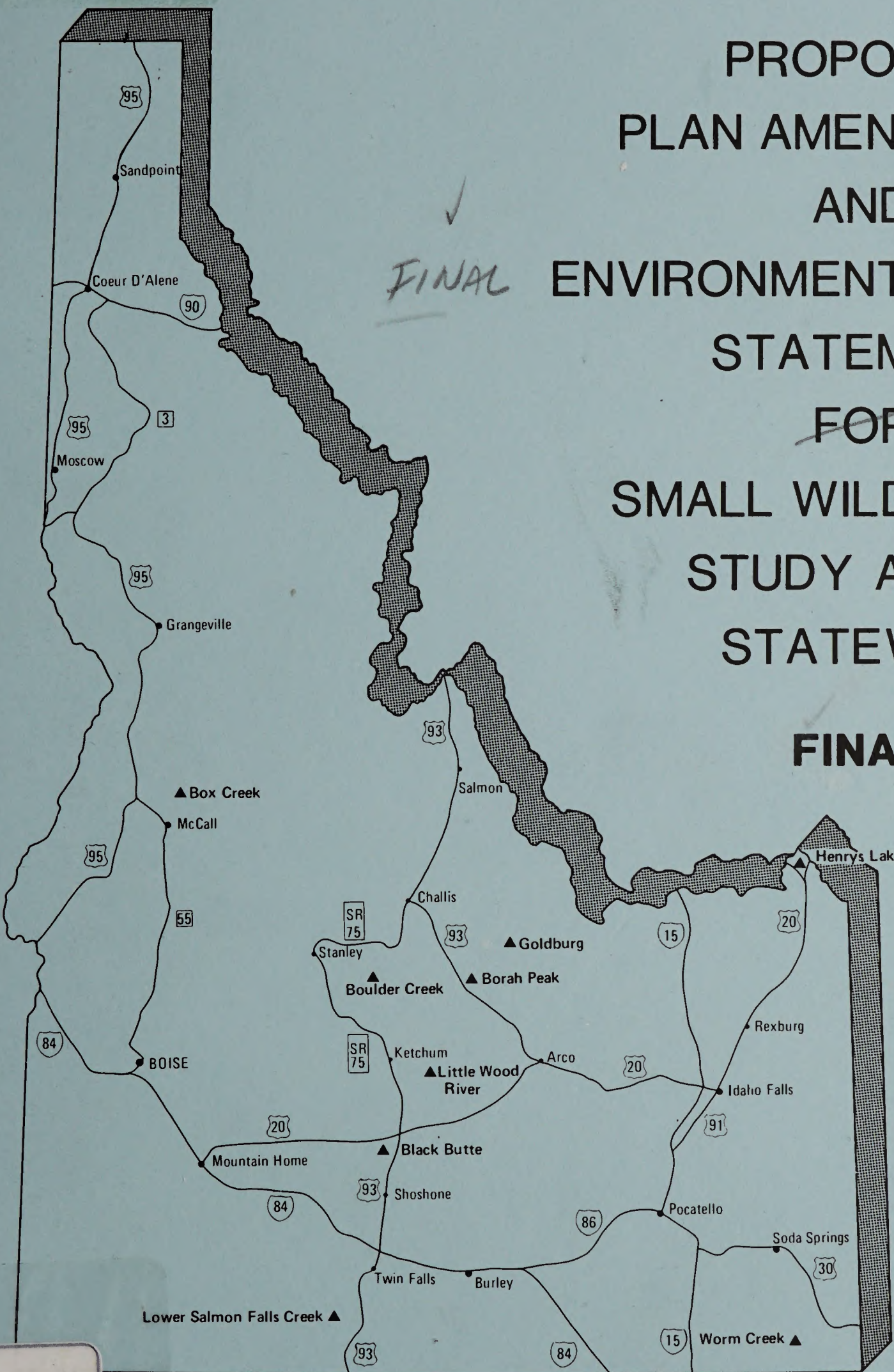
88073782

585.3(=83)
Un33p2 f

✓
FINAL

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENTS AND STATEMENT FOR SMALL WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS STATEWIDE.

FINAL



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
IDAHO
1989

DEPOSITORY

QH
76.5
.I2
I334
1989

~~LOGICAL SE...~~
OCT 10 1989
LIBRARY

BLM MISSION STATEMENT

“The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of the Public Lands and resources and their various values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American People. Management is based upon the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield; a combination of uses that takes into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness and natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.”



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IDAHO STATE OFFICE
3380 AMERICANA TERRACE
BOISE, IDAHO 83706



IN REPLY REFER TO:

8500
(932)

August, 1989

Dear Public Land User:

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Small Wilderness Study Areas Statewide is published for your information. It was prepared following consideration of public comments received on our draft document, which was distributed in January of 1988.

This document identifies BLM's recommendations and provides analysis regarding suitability and nonsuitability of nine small (less than 5,000 acres) wilderness study areas in Idaho.

The Bureau of Land Management recommends that 8,525 acres are suitable for designation as wilderness, and that 13,238 acres are not suitable for designation. This final EIS documents the environmental effects of managing under this recommendation and under alternative management.

The recommendations will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for review and further recommendation to the President. The President will then make recommendations to Congress. Congress will make the final decision on whether these areas are designated wilderness.

Thank you for your interest and assistance in our management of the public lands.

Sincerely yours,

Delmar D. Vail
State Director

#20423246

ID: 98073782

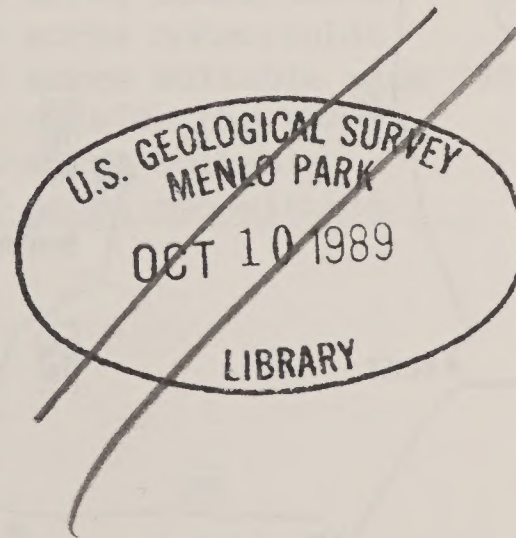
✓
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SMALL WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

STATEWIDE

Prepared by
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office

BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 50, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225



Delmar D. Vail

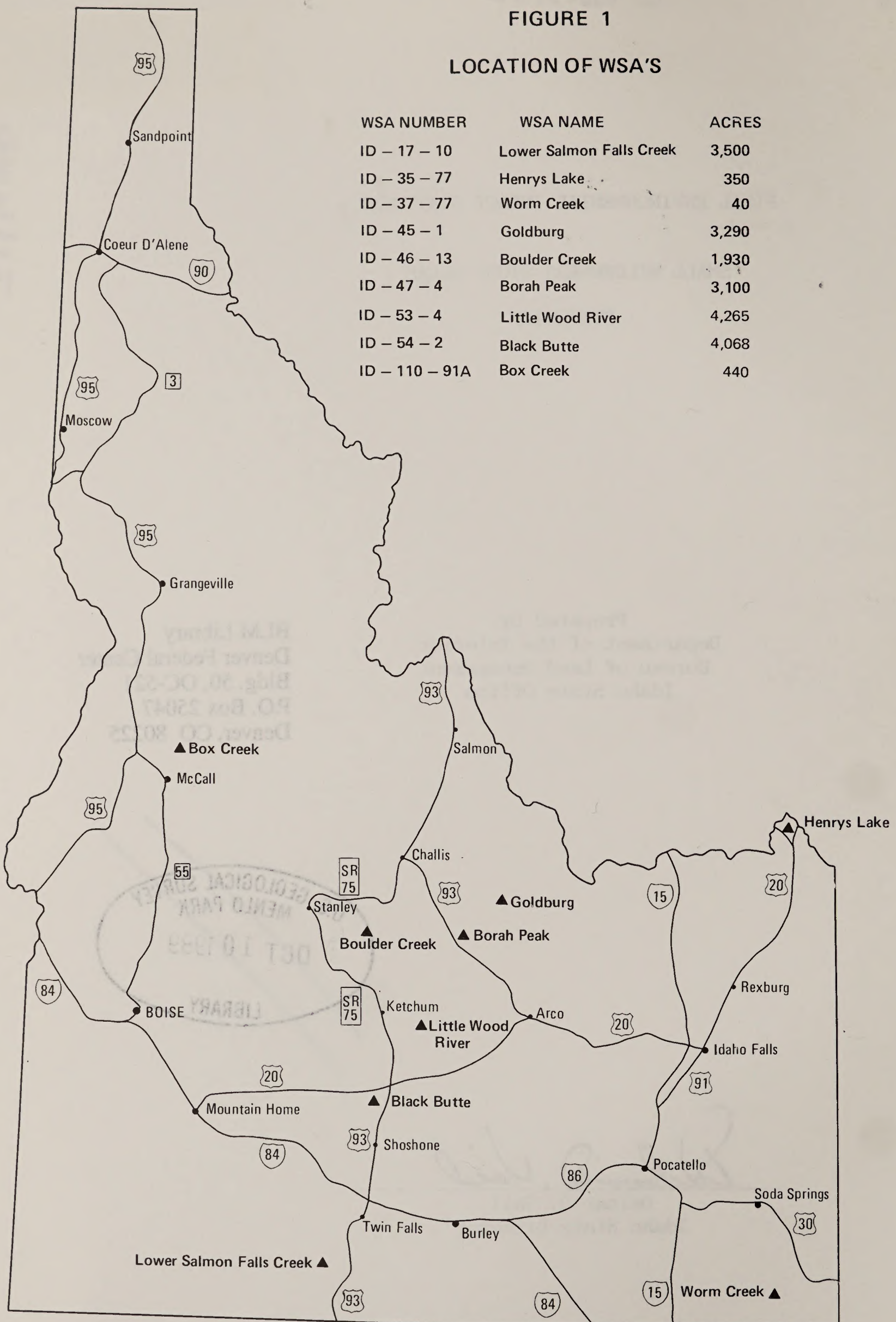
Delmar D. Vail
Idaho State Director

QH
76.5
I2
I334
1989

FIGURE 1

LOCATION OF WSA'S

WSA NUMBER	WSA NAME	ACRES
ID - 17 - 10	Lower Salmon Falls Creek	3,500
ID - 35 - 77	Henrys Lake	350
ID - 37 - 77	Worm Creek	40
ID - 45 - 1	Goldburg	3,290
ID - 46 - 13	Boulder Creek	1,930
ID - 47 - 4	Borah Peak	3,100
ID - 53 - 4	Little Wood River	4,265
ID - 54 - 2	Black Butte	4,068
ID - 110 - 91A	Box Creek	440



Small Wilderness Study Areas Environmental Impact Statement

Valley, Twin Falls, Fremont, Bear Lake, Custer, Blaine,
and Lincoln Counties, Idaho

Responsible Agency: United States Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Land Management

Draft ()

Administrative Action ()

Final (X)

Legislative Action (X)

Abstract: This EIS assesses the environmental consequences of managing nine wilderness study areas (WSAs) as wilderness or nonwilderness, of managing a portion of one WSA as wilderness, and of managing one of the WSAs as wilderness including additional adjacent acreage outside the WSA boundary. The alternatives assessed in this EIS include: (1) an all-wilderness alternative for each WSA, (2) a no-wilderness alternative for each WSA, (3) a partial-wilderness alternative for the Henry's Lake WSA, and (4) an all-wilderness with-additional-acreage alternative for the Borah Peak WSA. The nine WSAs are listed below with their acreage and BLM's preferred alternative for each.

WSA Name	Acreage	Preferred Alternative
Box Creek	440	All 440 acres nonsuitable
Lower Salmon Falls Creek	3,500	All 3,500 acres nonsuitable
Henry's Lake	350	340 acres suitable 10 acres nonsuitable
Worm Creek	40	All 40 acres suitable
Goldburg	3,290	All 3,290 acres nonsuitable
Boulder Creek	1,930	All 1,930 acres nonsuitable
Borah Peak	3,100	All 3,100 acres suitable plus 780 acres outside the WSA
Little Wood River	4,265	All 4,265 acres suitable
Black Butte	4,068	All 4,068 acres nonsuitable

For further information, contact:

Gary L. Wyke, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, ID 83706
Telephone (208) 334-1952

Summary

This environmental impact statement (EIS) documents the expected effects of managing nine wilderness study areas (WSAs) as wilderness or nonwilderness. These WSAs range in size from 40 acres to 4,265 acres. They were deleted from the wilderness study process in 1982 by Secretary of the Interior James Watt, along with all other WSAs under 5,000 acres identified under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. In 1985, a U.S. District Court decision reinstated these small units as WSAs.

The proposed recommendations are that a total of 8,525 acres are suitable for designation as wilderness, and 13,238 acres are unsuitable for designation.

The proposed action for the 440-acre Box Creek WSA is to recommend it unsuitable for wilderness designation. Issues addressed include effects of wilderness or nonwilderness management on wilderness values, the adjacent U.S. Forest Service Secesh Roadless area, hydroelectric development, timber harvest, motorized recreation, wildlife, fisheries, and the endangered grey wolf.

Given the relatively small size of the WSA and the fact that the Forest Service has recommended the adjacent lands be managed as a semi-primitive motorized area with salvage logging allowed, the effects of the alternative management proposals for the WSA tend to be overwhelmed by the effects of activity on surrounding lands. As a result, there is little difference in predicted environmental effects between the no wilderness and all wilderness alternatives. Under the no wilderness alternative (proposed action), wilderness values would be lost over most of the WSA. Fish habitat would be reduced slightly by increased sediment yield, and fish populations would be reduced by up to 10%. Under the all wilderness alternative, wilderness values would be reduced over 90% of the WSA by activities on adjacent lands. A proposed hydroelectric project would have to be relocated 1/8 mile. The harvest of 500 MBF of timber every 30 years would be foregone. Fish habitat would be degraded slightly by activities on adjacent lands, and fish populations could be slightly reduced in the long term.

The proposed action for the 3,500-acre Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA is to recommend it unsuitable for designation as wilderness. Issues addressed include effects of wilderness or nonwilderness management on wilderness values, hydroelectric development, oil and gas development, cultural resources, potential bighorn sheep management, and motorized recreation. Because the WSA is a steep-sided canyon that is managed as an Outstanding Natural area and is closed to hydroelectric development and motorized vehicles, there are no significant impacts from either the no wilderness or the all wilderness alternative. The only difference in effects between the two alternatives is the loss of the opportunity to explore within the WSA for oil and gas under the all wilderness alternative.

The proposed action for the Henry's Lake WSA is to recommend 340 acres of the 350-acre WSA suitable for management as wilderness in conjunction with the adjacent roadless area, and to recommend the remaining 10 acres as unsuitable. Issues addressed include the effects of three management

alternatives (the proposed action, no wilderness, and all wilderness) on wilderness values of the WSA, on the adjacent U.S. Forest Service's Lion's Head roadless area, on motorized recreation, and on realty actions on 10 acres of the WSA.

Under the proposed action (partial wilderness), the wilderness values of the WSA would be maintained on the suitable 340 acres and lost on the unsuitable 10 acres. The wilderness values of the adjacent U.S. Forest Service's Lion's Head roadless area would be slightly enhanced. Under the all wilderness alternative, the WSA's wilderness values would be maintained. The roadless areas wilderness values would be slightly enhanced. Disposal of 10 acres in the southeast corner of the WSA would not occur. Under the no wilderness alternative, wilderness values in the WSA would be unchanged on 340 acres and lost on 10 acres. There would be no effect on the U.S. Forest Service's roadless area. The proposed disposal of 10 acres could be carried out.

The proposed action for the 40-acre Worm Creek WSA is to recommend it suitable for management as wilderness in conjunction with the adjacent U.S. Forest Service's Worm Creek roadless area. Issues addressed include the effects of wilderness or nonwilderness management on the wilderness values of the WSA, on the U.S. Forest Service's roadless area, on oil and gas development, timber harvest, and motorized recreation.

Under the proposed action, the WSA's wilderness values would be preserved. The roadless area's wilderness values would be enhanced. The 40 acres would be withdrawn from oil and gas leasing. Timber harvest would be foregone on 39 acres of commercial forest. There would be no impact to motorized recreation. Under the no wilderness alternative, wilderness values would be lost on the 40-acre WSA. There would be no impact to the U.S. Forest Service's roadless area. There would be no impact to oil and gas development, timber harvest, or motorized recreation.

The proposed action for the 3,290-acre Goldburg WSA is to recommend it unsuitable for wilderness designation. Issues addressed include the effects of wilderness or nonwilderness management on the wilderness values of the WSA, the U.S. Forest Service's North Lemhi roadless area, the anadromous fishery resources in the Salmon River basin, antelope habitat, motorized recreation, and forest product sales.

Under the proposed action, wilderness values would be lost on 930 acres of the WSA. There would be no impact on the roadless area. There would be no impact on the anadromous fishery resources, antelope habitat, motorized recreation, or forest product sales. Under the all wilderness alternative, wilderness values would be maintained in the WSA. There would be no impact to the roadless area. There would be no impact on the anadromous fishery or on antelope habitat. The WSA would be closed to motorized recreation, but none occurs there now. Forest product sales would be foregone, including the potential for harvesting 124 MBF per year.

The proposed action for the 1,930-acre Boulder Creek WSA is to recommend it nonsuitable for wilderness designation. Issues addressed include the effects of wilderness or nonwilderness management on wilderness values of the WSA, the adjacent Boulder-White Clouds roadless area, anadromous fisheries, motorized recreation, energy and mineral development, and livestock grazing and range management.

Under the proposed action, there would be no significant impact to any of the resources. Under the all wilderness alternative, wilderness values would be preserved in the WSA. There would be no impact to the roadless area. There would be no significant impact to anadromous fisheries, energy and mineral development, or livestock grazing and range management. Approximately 20 visitor days of motorized recreation use would be displaced or lost annually.

The proposed action for the 3,100-acre Borah Peak WSA is to recommend all of it, and an additional 780 acres outside the WSA, suitable for management as wilderness in conjunction with the adjacent U.S. Forest Service's Borah Peak proposed wilderness. Issues addressed include the effects of the proposed management and of the no-wilderness and all wilderness alternatives on the WSA's wilderness values, the adjacent proposed wilderness, deer and antelope winter range, motorized recreation, energy and mineral resource development, livestock grazing and range management, and timber harvest.

Under the proposed action, wilderness values would be preserved on the WSA and on an additional 780 acres. The Forest Service's proposed wilderness would be slightly enhanced. There would be no impact to deer and antelope winter range. About 10 visitor days of motorized recreation would be displaced annually. The opportunity to explore for, and develop energy and mineral resources would be lost on 3880 acres. There would be no impact to livestock grazing and range management. The opportunity to harvest 14 MBF of timber annually would be lost. Under the all wilderness alternative, wilderness values would be preserved on the WSA. The Forest Service proposed wilderness would be slightly enhanced. There would be no impact to deer and antelope winter range. About 10 visitor days of motorized recreation use would be displaced annually. Opportunity to explore for and develop energy and mineral resources would be lost on 3,100 acres. There would be no impact on livestock grazing and range management. Opportunity to harvest 14 MBF of timber annually would be lost. Under the no wilderness alternative, the WSA's wilderness values would be lost on 97 of it's 3,100 acres due to timber harvest. There would be no other impacts.

The proposed action for the 4,265-acre Little Wood River WSA is to recommend it suitable for wilderness designation in conjunction with the adjacent U.S. Forest Service Pioneer Mountains roadless area. Issues addressed include the effects of the proposed action or the no wilderness alternative on the wilderness values of the WSA, the roadless area, motorized recreation, and the elk crucial winter range.

Under the proposed action, the WSA's wilderness values would be maintained. The roadless area values would be enhanced. There would be no impact to motorized recreation. The elk winter range would be maintained. Under the no wilderness alternative, the WSA's wilderness values would be maintained. There would be no impact to the Pioneer Mountains roadless area or to motorized

recreation. The elk winter range would be maintained under the existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation.

The proposed action for the 4,068-acre Black Butte WSA is to recommend it nonsuitable for wilderness designation. Issues addressed include the effects of managing the WSA as nonwilderness or wilderness on wilderness values, lava mining, and motorized recreation.

Under the proposed action, wilderness values would be lost on over 1500 acres. There would be no impact to lava mining or motorized recreation. Under the all wilderness alternative, wilderness values would be lost on 510 acres and on existing slab lava claims later found to be valid. No new slab lava mining claims could be located. Motorized recreation, estimated to be less than 75 visitor days annually, would be displaced.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Chapter I	
Introduction and Planning Process	1
Chapter II Proposed Action and Alternatives	
Box Creek WSA	12
Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA	15
Henry's Lake WSA	17
Worm Creek WSA	19
Goldburg WSA	21
Boulder Creek WSA	23
Borah Peak WSA	25
Little Wood River WSA	28
Black Butte WSA	29
Chapter III Affected Environment	
Box Creek WSA	30
Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA	33
Henry's Lake WSA	35
Worm Creek WSA	37
Goldburg WSA	39
Boulder Creek WSA	41
Borah Peak WSA	42
Little Wood River WSA	44
Black Butte WSA	46
Chapter IV Environmental Consequences	
Box Creek WSA	49
Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA	56
Henry's Lake WSA	58
Worm Creek WSA	62
Goldburg WSA	64
Boulder Creek WSA	67
Borah Peak WSA	70
Little Wood River WSA	75
Black Butte WSA	78
Chapter V	
Consultation, Coordination and Public Participation	81
List of Preparers	81
Mailing List	82
Response to Comments	88
Letters in Response to the Draft EIS	95
Transcripts of Three Public Hearings	110
References	131
Maps	Following page 131

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to preserve the wilderness values on 8,525 acres and to manage for other resource values on 13,238 acres.

Planning Process

On December 30, 1982, Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, published a Secretarial Order, deleting from wilderness study all areas identified through Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that contain less than 5,000 acres of public land. This Secretarial Order was vacated by a U.S. District Court decision on April 18, 1985. The nine Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) addressed in this document are among those that were dropped and then reinstated by the Court decision. (A tenth WSA, Selkirk Crest in Boundary County, Idaho, was dropped from the study process by the Secretarial Order, but reinstated in time to be addressed in the 1986 North Idaho Proposed MFP Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement.)

The planning action now being undertaken is to amend seven Management Framework Plans (MFPs) and three Resource Management Plans (RMPs).

The nine WSAs, the recommendation for each under the preferred alternative, and the plan being amended are listed in Table 1-1. The BLM's recommendations for wilderness designation will be reviewed by the Secretary of the Interior, who will make recommendations for designation through the President to the Congress. WSAs can be designated wilderness only by an act of Congress. If designated as wilderness, the area will be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Table 1-1

List of Wilderness Study Areas
and Proposed Recommendations

WSA Name	Acres Recommended Suitable	Acres Recommended Nonsuitable	Affected Land Use Plan
Box Creek	-0-	440	Cascade RMP
Lower Salmon Falls Creek	-0-	3,500	Jarbridge RMP and Twin Falls MFP
Henry's Lake	340	10	Medicine Lodge RMP
Worm Creek	40	-0-	Bear Lake MFP
Goldburg	-0-	3,290	Ellis/Pahsimeroi MFP
Boulder Creek	-0-	1,930	Challis MFP
Borah Peak	3,100 plus 780 acres outside WSA	-0-	Mackay MFP
Little Wood River	4,265	-0-	Sun Valley MFP
Black Butte	-0-	4,068	Bennett Hills MFP
TOTALS	8,525	13,238	

Issue Identification/Scoping

On April 24, 1986, BLM published in the Federal Register a notice of its intent to amend land use plans and prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). This notice listed the issues BLM anticipated in each WSA and invited the public to identify additional concerns or issues. This notice also stated that the planning criteria to be used to guide the development of the amendment would be those published in the Federal Register on February 3, 1982 under the title, "Wilderness Study Policy; Policies, Criteria, and Guidelines for Conducting Wilderness Studies on the Public Lands."

On May 5, 1986, a news release containing the same information and the same call for public participation was distributed to the news media and 103 resource-interest agencies, groups, and organizations.

The response to these two notices was analyzed, and resource-related issues specific to each WSA were identified. These WSA-specific issues, along with those Bureau-wide criteria identified in the Wilderness Study Policy cited above, guide the plan amendment/EIS process. They narrow the scope of the amendments/EIS by identifying the significant issues that will be studied prior to making a recommendation whether to designate a WSA as wilderness.

The WSA-specific issues to be evaluated for the proposed action and alternatives in this EIS are as follows:

Box Creek WSA

- Effects on wilderness values
- Effects of wilderness designation on the wilderness values of the U.S. Forest Service's adjacent Secesh roadless area
- Effects of wilderness designation on hydroelectric development
- Effects of wilderness designation on timber harvest
- Effects of wilderness designation on motorized recreation
- Effects of wilderness designation on wildlife
- Effects of wilderness designation on the fishery resource
- Effects of wilderness designation on the gray wolf

Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA

- Effects on wilderness values
- Effects of wilderness designation on hydroelectric development
- Effects of wilderness designation on oil and gas development
- Effects of wilderness designation on cultural resources
- Effects of wilderness designation on potential bighorn sheep management
- Effects of wilderness designation on motorized recreation

Henry's Lake WSA

- Effects on wilderness values
- Effects of wilderness designation on the wilderness values of the U.S. Forest Service's adjacent Lion's Head roadless area
- Effects of wilderness designation on motorized recreation
- Effects of wilderness designation on realty actions (the potential for disposal of 10 acres in the southern part of the WSA)

Worm Creek WSA

- Effects on wilderness values
- Effects of wilderness designation on the wilderness values of the U.S. Forest Service's adjacent Worm Creek roadless area
- Effects of wilderness designation on oil and gas development
- Effects of wilderness designation on timber harvest
- Effects of wilderness designation on motorized recreation

Goldburg WSA

- Effects on wilderness values
- Effects of wilderness designation on the wilderness values of the U.S. Forest Service's adjacent North Lemhi roadless area
- Effects of wilderness designation on anadromous fishery resources in the Salmon River Basin
- Effects of wilderness designation on antelope habitat
- Effects of wilderness designation on motorized recreation
- Effects of wilderness designation on forest product sales

Boulder Creek WSA

- Effects on wilderness values
- Effects of wilderness designation on the wilderness values of the U.S. Forest Service's adjacent Boulder-White Clouds roadless area
- Effects of wilderness designation on the anadromous fishery
- Effects of wilderness designation on motorized recreation
- Effects of wilderness designation on energy development
- Effects of wilderness designation on mineral development
- Effects of wilderness designation on livestock grazing and range management

Borah Peak WSA

- Effects on wilderness values
- Effects of wilderness designation on the wilderness values of the U.S. Forest Service's adjacent Borah Peak roadless area

- Effects of wilderness designation on deer and antelope winter range
- Effects of wilderness designation on motorized recreation
- Effects of wilderness designation on energy development
- Effects of wilderness designation on mineral resource development
- Effects of wilderness designation on livestock grazing and range management
- Effects of wilderness designation on timber harvest

Little Wood River WSA

- Effects on wilderness values
- Effects of wilderness designation on the wilderness values of the U.S. Forest Service's adjacent Pioneer Mountains roadless area
- Effects of wilderness designation on motorized recreation
- Effects of wilderness designation on elk crucial winter range

Black Butte WSA

- Effects on wilderness values
- Effects of wilderness designation on lava mining
- Effects of wilderness designation on motorized recreation

During the scoping process, some concerns were expressed that have been considered but have not been addressed in detail for every WSA. These concerns, and the reasons for not carrying them through the entire planning/EIS process for each WSA, are as follows:

- Effects of wilderness or nonwilderness designation on fish and wildlife. Effects on fish and wildlife will be analyzed in those WSAs in which any fish and wildlife species may be affected. The analysis will be narrowed to the species involved.
- Effects of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) projects and their resultant effects on anadromous fisheries. Effects of FERC projects will be analyzed in those WSAs in which FERC projects have been proposed or in which a reasonable potential for proposal exists. These include Box Creek and Lower Salmon Falls WSAs. Effects on anadromous fisheries will be considered where such fisheries may be affected. WSAs included are Goldburg and Boulder Creek.

- Effects on historic areas, culturally significant areas, and areas sacred to Native Americans. Those values will be assessed only as they are identified. To date, only a potential for culturally significant areas has been identified in Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA.
- The suitability of the wilderness study areas to be grazed by domestic livestock. Grazing suitability is an issue for basic land use planning by BLM. It is outside the narrower scope of these plan amendments designed to consider wilderness suitability. Also, a wilderness designation does not, of itself, prohibit livestock grazing.
- Full economic values of all multiple uses. The effect that proposals for the management of natural resources have on economic conditions can be measured in two distinct ways. The first is an analysis of the impact on local economies in terms of income and employment changes. This type of analysis is based on expenditures made in the local economy, for the procurement of either labor or supplies and materials. This type of analysis considers the effects of respending in the local economy (the multiplier effect). Initial analysis indicated that, due to the small size of the WSA's, any impact of this type would be very small in comparison to the local economies that would be impacted.

The other method of economic analysis involves examining the contributions the alternative makes to national economic development (commonly through the use of benefit-cost analysis). This is based on the willingness of individuals and/or businesses to pay for the provision of the resource (rather than do without). This is what they are willing to pay (whether they actually have to pay it or not) in addition to the expenditures necessary to use the resource. This is from a national viewpoint and is unconcerned with local impacts on income and employment and does not consider any multiplier effect. It is very difficult to estimate the willingness to pay for items not traded in the marketplace such as wilderness recreation, sightseeing, and visual amenities. It has been shown in studies that these types of non-marketed products have a positive willingness to pay. However, in these small WSA's the amount is not known and no studies of this type of use (except for hunting and fishing) have been done in Idaho. Further, the WSAs considered in this document are relatively small and lightly used. They contain relatively low economic values for both commodity and non-commodity resource uses. For these reasons, the economic impact on local economies and the alternative's contribution to national economic development have not been displayed in this EIS. This does not mean that we feel economic impacts will not occur, rather that we feel that what impacts do occur would be very small and impossible to measure and would be insignificant locally and nationally.

- Effects of energy and mineral development on wilderness values. Energy or mineral development exists or has been identified as a concern in five of the WSAs. Potential for energy or mineral development has been identified in Lower Salmon Falls Creek, Worm Creek, Boulder Creek, and Borah Peak WSAs. Black Butte is affected by slab lava mining. This issue will not be examined for the other WSAs.

- Lower Salmon Falls Creek: Effects of land management on adjacent plateau areas upon wilderness or nonwilderness designations for the canyon. To the extent that this concern involves the manageability of the WSAs as wilderness, it has been addressed under the manageability criteria identified in the "Wilderness Study Policy; Policies, Criteria, and Guidelines for Conducting Wilderness Studies on Public Lands."
- Lower Salmon Falls Creek: Effects of management on adjacent plateaus (outside the WSA) on the raptor population within the canyon. This concern is outside the scope of the plan amendment, which is designed to determine the suitability or unsuitability of the WSA for wilderness designation.

Coordination on Historic Preservation and Threatened or Endangered Species

In the course of scoping and preparing the draft EIS, BLM personnel communicated with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether the proposed action or alternatives being considered would have any effect on historic sites eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or on any threatened or endangered species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified listed endangered and threatened species, and candidate species that may occur in the wilderness study areas. The listed species that may occur in the WSAs are the gray wolf in the Box Creek WSA and the Grizzly Bear in the Henry's Lake WSA. Candidate plant species that may occur include Lepidium davisii in the vicinity of the Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA, and Astragalus vexilliflexus var. nubilus in the vicinity of the Boulder Creek WSA.

Effects of the proposed action and alternatives on the listed species are addressed in Chapter 4 of this document. If, in the future, any activity is proposed that has the potential to affect the candidate species, an inventory will be conducted to determine whether the candidate species actually occur in the affected area. BLM will consult the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate on minimizing impacts to candidate species.

Formulation of Alternatives

The alternative actions of managing each WSA as wilderness or nonwilderness are analyzed. The alternative of designating part of the Henry's Lake WSA as wilderness is analyzed. The alternative of designating all of the Borah Peak WSA plus additional acreage outside the WSA is analyzed. No reasonable alternatives other than "all wilderness" or "no wilderness" were identified for the remaining seven WSAs.

Selection of Preferred Alternative

The selection of the preferred alternative for each WSA is part of the Bureau's planning process.

The specific rationale for the preferred alternative for each WSA is as follows:

Box Creek

The preferred alternative for Box Creek WSA is to recommend it nonsuitable for designation as wilderness. Wilderness suitability for the Box Creek WSA is dependent upon wilderness designation for the adjacent roadless area. The Box Creek WSA is adjacent to the U.S. Forest Service 266,292 area Secesh roadless area (formerly RARE II Lick Creek - 136,366 acres, plus additions to Big Creek) on the north and east boundaries. The Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan for the Payette National Forest identifies approximately 20,000 acres of the area immediately adjacent to the WSA to be managed as a semi-primitive motorized area. Motorized use would be permitted and timber harvest would be allowed for salvage purposes along existing roads.

Wilderness management for the Box Creek WSA would not be compatible with the semi-primitive motorized designation allowed for the adjacent U.S. Forest Service roadless area because of the sights and sounds occurring in this adjacent area associated with salvage logging operations and motorized use that would be noticeable from within the WSA. The size of the WSA would allow these activities to be noticeable from within the WSA even with the vegetative and topographic screening that exists. Wilderness designation for the WSA also would not be compatible with timber harvest activities which could occur on the State of Idaho lands immediately adjacent to the WSA along the south and west boundaries. The sights and sounds associated with timber harvest activities on these adjacent State lands would also be noticeable from within the WSA.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation do exist within the WSA when considered with the adjacent roadless area. Because of the size of the WSA and because of activities on adjacent lands associated with motorized use, timber harvest and hydroelectric development which would be noticeable over much of the WSA, these opportunities would be reduced and limited and, therefore, would not be outstanding if the adjacent roadless area were not designated wilderness. Consequently, the WSA is judged to be not manageable as wilderness.

Designation of the Box Creek WSA as wilderness would not add significantly to the quality or geographic distribution of ecosystem representation in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The ecosystem which the Box Creek WSA is within (Grand Fir - Douglas-fir Forest) is currently represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System in Idaho and elsewhere in the Intermountain West.

Lower Salmon Falls Creek

The preferred alternative for the Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA is to recommend it nonsuitable for designation as wilderness. The WSA's marginal wilderness quality governs the no wilderness recommendation.

The quality of the WSA's natural appearance is somewhat diminished by the area's small size and narrow configuration. The canyon also creates a narrow corridor of use which diminishes the quality of solitude for the area by increasing the potential for visitor interaction. The quality of unconfined recreation is also diminished by the small number of access routes, which tend to concentrate visitors in a narrow corridor of use. The WSA's ecosystem can better be represented by similar but larger and higher quality WSAs that have been proposed for wilderness designation by the BLM in southwest Idaho. Also, the WSA would not significantly expand primitive recreation and solitude opportunities in the region due to its small size and configuration.

The no wilderness recommendation provides for the Bureau to continue management of the WSA and an additional 12 miles of canyon as an Outstanding Natural Area. This special management of the canyon provides for (1) the preservation of examples of natural ecosystems for comparison with those influenced by man; (2) educational research areas for ecological, archeological, and environmental studies; and (3) the preservation of gene pools for plants and animals. The designation of the area as an Outstanding Natural Area puts emphasis on the supplemental values rather than the marginal wilderness characteristic values (outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation).

Henry's Lake

The 340-acre parcel of the 350-acre Henry's Lake WSA is recommended suitable for wilderness designation as an addition to the Forest Service's proposed Lion's Head Wilderness. The steep foothill terrain of the 340-acre parcel makes a logical addition to the proposed wilderness and offers a small increase in size. This increase will enhance opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The recommendation excludes 10 acres in the southern portion of the WSA where recreational homesites are nearly surrounded by this small portion of the WSA (Map 3). Excluding this parcel will enhance manageability of the southern part of the area's boundary and improve the configuration. The wilderness recommendation will not conflict with the plans of the Forest Service and will be consistent with the future management of the area. It does not conflict with other resource uses or planned management activities, and allows the exchange of 10 acres as specified in the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan.

Worm Creek

All 40 acres of the WSA are recommended suitable for wilderness designation as an addition to the Forest Service's proposed Worm Creek Wilderness. The benchland-to-steep-hillside of this adjacent parcel make a logical addition to the proposed wilderness, and offers a small increase in size. The increase will slightly enhance opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The wilderness recommendation will not conflict with plans of the Forest Service and will be consistent with the future management of the area. The 40 acres could be effectively managed as wilderness over the long-term in conjunction with the Forest Service proposal. There would be no significant impacts to other resource values and uses.

Goldburg

The preferred alternative for Goldburg WSA is to recommend it nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The suitability of Goldburg WSA is dependent upon a suitable recommendation for the adjacent North Lemhi RARE II Area. The Forest Service's land use plan for this area does not recommend it suitable for wilderness designation, but allows ORV use, oil and gas leasing, and timber sales.

A suitable recommendation for Goldburg WSA would eliminate the potential for timber harvest on 930 acres of commercial forest land. It would also preclude sale of firewood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees. In addition, the narrow shape and indistinct borders of the WSA without the adjacent RARE II area would make it very difficult to manage as wilderness.

Boulder Creek

The preferred alternative for Boulder Creek WSA is to recommend it nonsuitable for designation as wilderness. The suitability of Boulder Creek WSA is dependent upon a suitable recommendation for the adjacent Boulder-White Clouds RARE II Area. The Forest Service land use plan for this area specifies roadless, non-wilderness management.

The small size and indistinct boundaries of the WSA without the adjacent RARE II Area would make it very difficult to manage as wilderness.

Borah Peak

The preferred alternative for the Borah Peak WSA is to recommend it and an additional 780 acres outside the WSA suitable for wilderness designation in conjunction with the adjacent Borah Peak RARE II Area. This designation would provide a more readily identified boundary for the combined area, would preserve the Borah Peak WSA's wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and primitive unconfined recreation, and would slightly enhance the Forest Service's proposed Borah Peak Wilderness.

Little Wood River

The preferred alternative for the Little Wood River WSA is to recommend it suitable for wilderness designation in conjunction with the adjacent Pioneer Mountains RARE II Area.

The Little Wood River WSA has outstanding wilderness values, is manageable as wilderness and would improve wilderness management of the contiguous RARE II Area.

The rugged area appears unaffected by the works of man. The varied topography and vegetation types provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Designation and management of the WSA as wilderness would maintain the crucial winter range of the 400 elk that summer in the Pioneer Mountains and winter in the WSA. The WSA is a logical topographic extension of the Pioneer Mountains RARE II Area.

The trail heads of both the Little Wood River Trail and the Buck Creek Trail, which lead into the Pioneer Mountains, would remain in a natural appearing state.

There are no significant negative impacts of wilderness designation of the area.

Black Butte

The preferred alternative for the Black Butte WSA is to recommend it nonsuitable for designation as wilderness.

The naturalness of the WSA has been significantly reduced by lava rock mining. Areas of lava rock removal are obvious and cannot be reclaimed. The intensively mined areas are visible from a distance. Roads and trails created to support mining wind over and around the Butte in the central portion of the WSA. These roads and trails cannot be reclaimed. With or without wilderness designation the mining of veneer lava could continue on 510 acres covered by valid mining claims and any other claims determined to be valid prior to wilderness designation. Because much of the area could not be managed as a natural appearing environment the Black Butte WSA is recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

CHAPTER 2

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Since the pattern of future actions cannot be predicted with certainty, assumptions regarding potential management actions must be made to facilitate impact analysis. These assumptions are the basis of the scenarios developed for each alternative in this impact statement. With the exception of the proposed wilderness recommendations, they are not management plans or proposals, but are believed to represent reasonable patterns of activities which could occur in each alternative.

BOX CREEK

Proposed Action (No Wilderness)

All 440 acres within the Box Creek WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The entire area would be managed for other multiple uses as defined in the Cascade Resource Management Plan (1987).

Hydroelectric Development

A small hydroelectric power generating facility is projected to be constructed in the vicinity of the Box Creek WSA. Approximately 3,000 feet of 26-inch diameter steel penstock pipe would be buried within the WSA along the southern boundary and an access/maintenance road paralleling the penstock would be constructed and maintained. This component of the hydroelectric project within the WSA is part of a proposal filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on February 27, 1984 (Box Creek Hydropower Project P-8131-000) and would include approximately three miles of penstock, an intake structure, and a powerhouse. The intake structure and the powerhouse would each be located approximately one mile away from the WSA boundary on U.S. Forest Service and State of Idaho lands, respectively.

Timber Harvest

Timber harvest is projected to occur on 295 acres of suitable commercial forest land scattered throughout the WSA. The area would be selectively cut during the next 30 years and approximately 500,000 board feet would be harvested. Approximately 1-1/4 miles of roads would be constructed for the logging operations. All roads would be closed and rehabilitated following harvest. Additional timber harvests would occur periodically based on a 100-year rotation. On the average, approximately 500,000 board feet would be harvested every 30 years. Since the area is an important elk calving area, timber harvest would not be allowed between April 15 and July 15.

Timber harvest on the adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands would be limited to salvage logging operations. These activities would occur along existing roads which are located approximately one mile from the WSA boundary.

Timber harvest is projected to occur on the adjacent State of Idaho lands. These lands would be selectively cut during the next 30 years. Roads constructed for logging activities would be closed and rehabilitated following timber harvest. Additional timber harvests would occur periodically based on a 100-year rotation.

Recreation Management

The WSA is within a larger area in which the Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP) limited ORV use to designated roads and trails. There are no roads or trails within the WSA; so there would be no ORV use.

Mineral Resources

The area would be open to all mineral exploration and development. No mineral related activity is anticipated.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 440 acres within the Box Creek WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Hydroelectric Development

A small hydroelectric power generating facility is projected to be constructed in the vicinity of the Box Creek WSA as described in the Proposed Action except that 3,000 feet of 26-inch diameter buried steel penstock pipe and a paralleling access road would be relocated approximately 1/8 mile south and would be located outside and adjacent to the southern boundary of the WSA.

Timber Harvest

There would be no timber harvest or associated road construction within the WSA.

Timber harvest on the adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands would be limited to salvage logging operations. These activities would occur along existing roads which are located approximately one mile from the WSA boundary.

Timber harvest is projected to occur on the adjacent State of Idaho lands. These lands would be selectively cut during the next 30 years. Roads constructed for logging activities would be closed and rehabilitated following timber harvest. Additional timber harvests would occur periodically based on a 100-year rotation.

Recreation Management

There would be no recreation facilities developed under this alternative. The area would be closed to ORV use.

Mineral Resources

The area would be closed to all mineral exploration and development.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Box Creek WSA

Resource Topic	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	All Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness Values	Naturalness and primitive and unconfined recreation would be lost on most of WSA. Solitude would be reduced.	Naturalness reduced on 75% of the WSA, and solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation reduced on 90% of the WSA by activities on adjacent lands.
USFS Secesh Roadless Area	Sights and sounds of timber harvest in WSA would be noticeable in 10% of the roadless area.	No Effect
Hydroelectric Development	No Impact	Proposed project would have to be relocated 1/8 mile
Timber Harvest	No Impact	Harvest of 500 MBF every 30 years foregone.
Motorized Recreation	No Impact	No Impact
Wildlife	Deer and elk use increase up to 5%. Bear and grouse use decrease by up to 3%.	No Impact
Fisheries	Fish populations reduced by up to 10%.	Fish populations could be slightly reduced by activity on adjacent lands.
Gray Wolf	No Impact	No Impact

LOWER SALMON FALLS CREEK

Proposed Action (No Wilderness)

All of the 3,500-acre WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness and would be managed according to the Twin Falls MFP and Jarbidge RMP. Both management plans place the entire WSA within the designated Salmon Falls Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) which gives management authority to preserve and protect the area's important special features. The Twin Falls MFP would be amended to place the eastern boundary of the ONA at the canyon rim, rather than 500 feet east of the rim, as it is at present. This change would make the eastern boundary consistent with the western boundary, which is the western rim of the canyon. The two land use plans close the ONA to grazing, motorized vehicles, and new utility rights-of-way. No developments are proposed for the area. A recreation activity management plan (RAMP) will be prepared that will describe in detail the management actions to be taken to implement the plan decisions. BLM will work with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to determine whether the canyon contains bighorn sheep habitat.

Hydroelectric Development

The entire WSA is, and would remain, closed to any hydroelectric development.

Oil and Gas Exploration and Development

The entire WSA would remain open to oil and gas leasing, but no surface occupancy is, or would be, allowed within the canyon.

Motorized Vehicles

The entire WSA would remain closed to all motorized vehicle use.

Grazing

The entire WSA would remain closed to grazing.

Bighorn Sheep Introduction

The entire WSA would be evaluated for its potential as bighorn sheep habitat.

All Wilderness Alternative

All of the 3,500 acres of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness and would be managed under the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Hydroelectric Development

The entire WSA would remain closed to any hydroelectric development.

Oil and Gas Exploration and Development

The entire WSA would be closed to future oil and gas leasing. Existing oil and gas leases would continue to prohibit surface occupancy within the canyon.

Motorized Vehicles

The entire WSA would remain closed to all motorized vehicle use.

Grazing

The entire WSA would remain closed to grazing.

Bighorn Sheep Introduction

The entire WSA would be evaluated for its potential as bighorn sheep habitat.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA

Resource Topic	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	All Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness Values	No Impact	No Impact
Hydroelectric Development	No Impact	No Impact
Oil & Gas Development	No Impact	Opportunity to explore in the canyon would be foregone. No impact on development
Cultural Resources	No Impact	No Impact
Bighorn Sheep Introduction	No Impact	No Impact
Motorized Recreation	No Impact	No Impact

HENRY'S LAKE

Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness)

Under this Partial Wilderness Alternative, 340 acres of Henry's Lake WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 10 acres, located in the area's southeastern corner would be recommended as nonsuitable for designation.

Land Disposal Action

A 10-acre parcel located in the southeastern corner of the WSA was identified in the Medicine Lodge RMP (USDI, 1985) for disposal through sale or exchange. The preferred method of disposal would be through exchange. The 10 acres would probably be placed in a reserve pool designated for high public value exchanges. After exchange of the parcel, the 10 acres is projected to be developed for recreational homesites. An existing trail right-of-way across the 10 acres would be retained by the Forest Service.

Other Resource Management Actions

The 340-acre parcel recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would remain closed to motor vehicle use. The 10-acre parcel recommended as nonsuitable for designation would be disposed of and would not have any federally imposed motor vehicle use restrictions.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 350 acres of the Henry's Lake WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Land Disposal Action

Under this All Wilderness Alternative, all 350 acres of the WSA would be retained in Federal ownership. The Forest Service would retain their existing trail right-of-way (#I-011616) across the 10-acre parcel in the southeastern corner of the WSA.

Other Resource Management Actions

The entire WSA would be closed to motor vehicle use.

No Wilderness Alternative

All 350 acres of the Henry's Lake WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Land Disposal Action

A 10-acre parcel located in the southeastern corner of the WSA has been identified for disposal through sale or exchange. The preferred method of disposal would be through exchange. The 10 acres would probably be placed in a reserve pool designated for high public value exchanges. After exchange of the parcel, the 10 acres are projected to be developed for recreational homesites. An existing trail right-of-way across the 10 acres would be retained by the Forest Service.

Other Resource Management Actions

Pursuant to the Medicine Lodge RMP, the 340 acres of public land retained in federal ownership would be closed to motor vehicles. Use of motor vehicles within the 10-acre disposal parcel would be controlled by the owner that acquires the land.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Henry's Lake WSA

Resource Topic	Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness)	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness Values	Maintained (no impact) on suitable portion. Lost on nonsuit- able 10 acres	Maintained (no impact)	Unchanged on 340 acres; lost on 10 acres
USFS Lion's Head Roadless Area	Roadless area's wilderness values enhanced	Roadless area's wilderness values enhanced	No Impact
Motorized Recreation	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact

WORM CREEK

Proposed Action (All Wilderness)

All 40 acres of the Worm Creek WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Oil and Gas Exploration and Development

No valid existing rights exist, thus the 40 acres of the Worm Creek WSA would be withdrawn from leasing under the mineral leasing laws.

Timber Harvest

Under this All Wilderness Alternative none of the timber in the WSA would be harvested.

Motorized Recreation

The WSA would be closed to motorized recreation.

No Wilderness Alternative

All of the 40-acre Worm Creek WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Oil and Gas Exploration and Development

The lands within the WSA have been determined to lie in a high potential area for the discovery of oil or gas. As interest in locating additional reserves in the overthrust belt continues, it is likely that additional wells will be drilled in the area. Because of State spacing requirements for wells (640 acres per gas well and 160 acres per oil well) it is not likely that a well would be drilled on the 40 acres in the Worm Creek WSA. However, should a well be drilled on the tract, it is projected that five acres would be disturbed by road and drill pad construction.

Timber Harvest

Over an estimated 40-year period, three cuttings are projected under a shelterwood regeneration system in the Douglas-fir. The initial cutting would harvest about 175 MBF of the available 600 MBF of commercial timber on 39 acres of the 40-acre WSA. Lodgepole pine would be clearcut in the initial entry. Access to the timber would be provided by the Bloomington Creek Road. All logging would be done by rubber-tire skidder or cat, and no roads are projected to be built into the area.

Motorized Recreation

The WSA would not be legally closed to motorized recreation, but no use occurs now, and none is projected in the future.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Resource Topic	Worm Creek WSA	
	Proposed Action (All Wilderness)	No Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness Values	Wilderness values preserved	Values lost on 40 acres
USFS Worm Creek Roadless Area	Roadless area's wilderness values slightly enhanced	No significant impact
Oil & Gas Development	40 acres withdrawn from leasing; likely no impact on development	No Impact
Timber Harvest	Harvest foregone on 39 acres. No significant impact	No Impact
Motorized Recreation	No Impact	No Impact

GOLDBURG

Proposed Action (No Wilderness)

All of the 3,290 acres in the WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation. These lands would be open for nonwilderness uses and development. Lands would be open to off-road vehicles (ORVs), but no use is projected to occur. No energy and mineral resources development actions are anticipated.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use is projected to continue at 1,301 AUMs in the Bear Creek Allotment. One small spring development is projected in the WSA.

Forest Resources

Surface disturbance of 930 acres is projected to occur due to commercial timber sales. One mile of road is projected to be built to access the commercial timber areas. No demand for Christmas trees, firewood, or post and pole sales is anticipated.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 3,290 acres in the WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. The WSA would be closed to ORV use.

Energy and Mineral Resources Development Actions

No development actions could occur. The lands in the WSA would be withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use is projected to continue at 1,301 AUMs in the Bear Creek Allotment. One small spring development is anticipated in the WSA.

Forest Resources

Commercial timber sales would not occur.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Goldburg WSA

Resource Topic	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	All Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness Values	Values lost on 930 acres	Values would be maintained
USFS North Lemhi Roadless Area	No significant impact	No Impact
Anadromous Fisheries	No Impact	No Impact
Antelope Habitat	No Impact	No Impact
Motorized Recreation	No Impact	No Impact
Forest Product Sales	No Impact	Product sales foregone, including potential of 124 MBF per year

BOULDER CREEK

Proposed Action (No Wilderness)

All of the 1,930 acres in the WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation. These lands would be open for nonwilderness uses and development.

Recreation Management Actions

Lands would be open to all uses including ORVs. The Little Boulder Creek Recreation Site/Trailhead would continue in a limited maintenance - no development mode due to private land access problems. Recreational ORV use is projected to remain at 20 visitor days per year.

Energy and Mineral Resources Development Actions

No energy and mineral development actions are anticipated.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use is projected to continue at 288 AUMs in the East Fork Allotment. No range improvements are planned.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 1,930 acres in the WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation.

Recreation Management Actions

The WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use.

Energy and Mineral Resources Development Actions

No development actions could occur. The lands in the WSA would be withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use is projected to continue at 288 AUMs in the East Fork Allotment. No range improvements are planned.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Resource Topic	Boulder Creek WSA	
	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	All Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness values	No Impact	Values preserved
USFS Boulder-White Clouds Roadless Areas	No Impact	No Impact
Anadromous Fisheries	No Impact	No Impact
Motorized Recreation	No Impact	20 visitor days displaced or lost annually
Energy Development	No Impact	No significant impact
Mineral Development	No Impact	No significant impact
Livestock Grazing & Range Management	No Impact	No Impact

BORAH PEAK

Proposed Action (All Wilderness Plus Additional Acreage)

All 3,100 acres in the WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. In addition, 780 acres outside the WSA on the northern boundary would be recommended suitable. These 780 acres were deleted from the WSA during the wilderness inventory because the U.S. Forest Service's Borah Peak RARE II Area was not contiguous to them. In the Land Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest (USDA, 1987), the Forest Service lands contiguous to the BLM's 780 acres are proposed for wilderness designation.

A total of 3,880 BLM acres would be recommended suitable for designation as wilderness.

Recreation Management Actions

The WSA and additional acreage would be closed to recreational ORV use.

Energy and Mineral Resource Development Actions

No development actions could occur. The lands in the WSA and additional acreage would be withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use is projected to continue at 280 AUMs in the Whiskey Springs allotment.

Forest Resources

No commercial timber sales would occur.

All Wilderness Alternative

Under this alternative, all 3,100 acres within the WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

Resource management actions would be the same as for the proposed action.

No Wilderness Alternative

None of the 3,100 acres in the WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation. The lands would be managed for other uses.

Recreation Management Actions

Lands would be open to all uses including ORV.

Energy and Mineral Resource Development Actions

The lands would be open to energy or mineral resource development actions, but none are anticipated.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use is projected to continue at 280 AUMs in the Whiskey Springs Allotment.

Timber Harvest

Timber sales could be authorized on the 97 acres in the WSA classified as commercial forest land suitable for management. No sales are projected, however, because this is a low priority area for timber sales. The timber is short and excessively tapered. A sale would be especially unlikely if it could not be done in concert with an adjacent Forest Service sale. No demand for Christmas trees, firewood, or pole sales is projected.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Borah Peak WSA

Resource Topic	Proposed Action (All Wilderness plus additional acreage)	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness Values	Values preserved on 3880 acres	Values preserved on 3100 acres	Values unchanged
USFS Borah Peak Roadless Area	Roadless area's values slightly enhanced	Roadless area's values slightly enhanced	No Impact
Deer, Antelope Winter Range	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Motorized Recreation	10 visitor days of ORV use displaced annually	10 visitor days of ORV use displaced annually	No Impact
Energy Resource Development	Opportunity to explore for and develop resource would be lost on 3880 acres	Opportunity to explore for and develop resource would be lost on 3100 acres	No Impact-No development projected to occur
Mineral Resource Development	Opportunity to explore for and develop resource would be lost on 3880 acres	Opportunity to explore for and develop resource would be lost on 3100 acres	No Impact-No development projected to occur
Livestock Grazing & Range Management	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Timber Harvest	Opportunity to harvest 14 MBF annually would be lost	Opportunity to harvest 14 MBF annually would be lost	No Impact-No harvest projected to occur

LITTLE WOOD RIVER

Proposed Action (All Wilderness)

All 4,265 acres of public land in the Little Wood River WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

The area would continue to be managed as an ACEC for the long-term protection of elk crucial winter range. The area would remain closed to ORV use.

No Wilderness Alternative

All 4,265 acres of public land in the Little Wood River WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The area would continue to be managed as an ACEC for the long-term protection of elk crucial winter range. The area would remain closed to ORV use. Although other actions compatible with the ACEC designation could occur, none are anticipated or predicted.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Little Wood River WSA

Resource Topic	Proposed Action (All Wilderness)	No Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness Values	Values maintained	Values maintained
USFS Pioneer Mountains Roadless Area	Roadless area values enhanced	No Impact
Motorized Recreation	No Impact	No Impact
Elk Winter Range	Maintained	Maintained under ACEC designation

BLACK BUTTE

Proposed Action (No Wilderness)

All 4,068 acres of public land in the Black Butte WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Black Butte veneer lava mining is projected to continue. The area's naturalness would continue to be reduced by mining activities. Mining is projected to expand to additional areas within the WSA. Although the area would be open to motorized vehicle use, vehicles would be restricted to mining roads and the lower elevations by the area's rough topography.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 4,068 acres of public land in the Black Butte WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Mining of veneer lava is projected to continue to reduce naturalness on the existing valid mining claims. No new mining claims would be located after designation. The area would be closed to motorized vehicle use except use associated with mining operations on valid claims.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Resource Topic	Black Butte WSA	
	Proposed Action (No Wilderness)	All Wilderness Alternative
Wilderness Values	Values lost on over 1500 acres	Values lost on 510 acres plus additional claims found valid.
Lava Mining	No Impact	No new claims could be located
Motorized Recreation	No Impact	Under 75 visitor days displaced annually

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

BOX CREEK

General Characteristics

The Box Creek WSA is located approximately 10 miles northeast of McCall, Idaho. It is an isolated 1 mile by 3/4 mile rectangular tract encompassing 440 acres.

The area consists of rolling to extremely steep and broken terrain supporting a mixed conifer forest of Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, Englemann spruce, and lodgepole pine. Ponderosa pine, larch, and aspen are also present. The forest cover is broken frequently by large granite outcrops. The soils are of granitic origin and have a high or very high hazard of erosion. Elevation ranges from 5,700 to 6,700 feet.

Box Creek is the only perennial stream in the WSA and flows west for approximately 1 mile through the southern portion of the WSA. The nearest access roads are approximately 1 mile from the boundaries.

Relationship to Adjacent Forest Service Lands

The Box Creek WSA is adjacent to the U.S. Forest Service 266,292 acre Secesh roadless area (previously evaluated as Lick Creek to Big Creek in RARE II) on the north and east boundaries. The Record of Decision for the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Payette National Forest (USDA, 1988) identifies approximately 20,000 acres of the immediately adjacent area to be managed as a semi-primitive motorized area. Motorized use would be permitted and timber harvest would be allowed for salvage purposes only along existing roads. All other resources would be managed to maintain the integrity of the semi-primitive setting. The draft EIS for the proposed forest plan was circulated for public review and comment on September 6, 1985. The Land and Resource Management Plan was approved on May 3, 1988.

Wilderness suitability for the Box Creek WSA is dependent upon wilderness designation for the adjacent Secesh roadless area. Wilderness suitability for the WSA would not be compatible with the semi-primitive motorized designation proposed for the adjacent roadless area because of the sights and sounds occurring in this adjacent area associated with salvage logging operations and motorized vehicle use that would be noticeable from within the WSA. The size of the WSA would allow for these activities to be noticeable from within the WSA even with the vegetative and topographic screening that exists. Wilderness designation for the WSA also would not be compatible with timber harvest activities which could occur on the State of Idaho lands immediately adjacent to the WSA boundary. The sights and sounds associated with timber harvest activities on these adjacent lands would also be noticeable from within the WSA. Although opportunities for solitude and

primitive and unconfined recreation exist within the WSA, because of its size, these opportunities would be limited and, therefore, would not be outstanding if the adjacent roadless areas were not designated wilderness.

Land Status

The Box Creek WSA contains 440 acres of public lands. There are no State or private inholdings within the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

There are no signs of significant human imprints within the WSA. The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are no roads or ways or trails nor any other developments within the WSA. The area is substantially natural in character.

Solitude

The vegetative and topographic screening provide outstanding opportunities for solitude when considered with the contiguous U.S. Forest Service area. Because of the WSA's size, these opportunities would be limited and, therefore, would not be outstanding without the contiguous area.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The WSA provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation such as hiking, hunting, photography, wildlife observation and fishing when considered with the contiguous U.S. Forest Service area. Because of the WSA's size, these opportunities would be limited and, therefore, would not be outstanding without the contiguous area.

Timber Resources

All 440 acres within the WSA are commercial forest lands. The Timber Production and Capability Classification process has determined that 295 acres are capable of sustaining long-term timber production and are referred to as suitable commercial forest lands. These 295 acres are included in the timber harvest base for the Cascade Resource Area. The annual allowable cut in the WSA is approximately 17 thousand board feet. The remaining 145 acres were determined to be incapable of sustaining long-term timber production, primarily because of rock outcrops, and are referred to as unsuitable commercial forest lands. These 145 acres are scattered throughout the WSA. The WSA has not previously been logged. The annual allowable cut for the 26,663 acres of suitable commercial forest land in the Cascade Resource Area is approximately 1.7 million board feet.

Recreation Use

Recreation use in the general area includes hiking, hunting, photography, wildlife observation, and fishing. There are no roads, trails or ways within the WSA and no known ORV use. Visitor use data are not available for the WSA, but visitor use is believed to be limited and is expected to remain low in the foreseeable future.

Wildlife Resources

The WSA contains habitat used by elk, white-tailed and mule deer, and black bear primarily during the summer and fall. The area is an important elk calving ground and some winter use has also been documented. Spruce grouse are also found in the vicinity. Population data for these species in the WSA are not available.

Sensitive species which may use the general vicinity include bobcat, osprey, and mountain quail. These species are not known to inhabit the WSA; however, management actions have been developed to minimize impacts on these species where they occur. Since these species would be minimally impacted under either alternative, they will not be discussed further.

Fisheries Resources

Box Creek supports populations of rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, redband trout, and mountain whitefish. Redband trout is identified as a species of special concern by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and a sensitive species by BLM. Box Creek is rated as excellent for fisheries values within the WSA.

Water Quality

Box Creek is the only perennial stream within the WSA and flows through the southern portion of the WSA for approximately 1 mile. Water quality data are not available but it is expected that the water quality is excellent within the WSA because of the relatively undisturbed nature of the watershed.

Riparian Values

Box Creek is rated as excellent for riparian values within the WSA. Management actions have been developed to minimize impacts on riparian values. Since there would be minimal impacts on the riparian values under either alternative, they will not be discussed further.

Cultural Resources

No cultural resource sites of National Register quality are known to exist within the WSA. No cultural resource inventory has been conducted within the WSA. Cultural resource management for the Box Creek WSA would be the same for both the All Wilderness Alternative and the No Wilderness Alternative. Cultural resource inventories would be conducted in accordance with standard operating procedures, and cultural sites found to be eligible would be nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Since cultural resource management would be the same under both alternatives and the provisions of 36 CFR 800 would apply to both alternatives, no significant impacts would be anticipated under either alternative. Therefore, cultural resources will not be discussed further.

Energy and Mineral Resources

The WSA is located within the Idaho Batholith portion of the Northern Rocky Mountain geologic province. The oil and gas potential is rated at zero. The geothermal potential is rated at zero to low. It is not within an area of

current locatable mineral activity and there are no existing mining claims within the WSA. Based on a lack of leaseable mineral potential and no record of past locatable mineral activity, there would be no anticipated future locatable or leaseable mineral activity and, consequently, no significant impact on the mineral resource or the mineral industry from either alternative. Therefore, mineral resources will not be discussed further.

Threatened or Endangered Species

There are no known threatened or endangered plant species within the WSA. The bald eagle, an endangered species, is found in the general vicinity but is not known to inhabit the WSA. Management actions have been developed to protect this species where it occurs. It would not be impacted under either alternative and will not be discussed further. The gray wolf, an endangered species, has had sighting reports several miles to the east of the WSA and may occasionally use the area.

LOWER SALMON FALLS CREEK

General Characteristics

The 3,500-acre WSA is a 16-mile long and up-to-1/2-mile-wide canyon that carries Salmon Falls Creek. The southern end of the WSA is located one mile downstream (north) of Salmon Falls Dam, nine miles west of Rogerson. This vertical-walled, meandering canyon dissects the Antelope Pocket lava plain, is between 300 and 600 feet deep and supports a variety of plant, fish, and wildlife species. The talus slopes of the canyon are dominated by northern high desert species, while the canyon bottom is dominated by juniper, willow, and other riparian associated vegetation.

Land Status

The Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA contains 3,500 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings within the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The WSA has no roads and very few access routes by foot within its boundaries. Imprints of man are not evident except for a few small (less than 1/16 acre) illegal garbage/litter dumps located just below the rim in the Lilly Grade Area. Inside the canyon, evidence of man's impact on the naturalness is rarely seen. The canyon's remoteness and limited access have preserved its natural characteristics.

Solitude

The topographic screening afforded by the meandering character of the canyon, combined with good to excellent vegetative screening in the canyon bottom offers opportunities for solitude. The quality of solitude is somewhat diminished due to the narrow corridor of use which increases the potential for visitor interaction. The length of the canyon WSA (16 miles) tends to minimize this effect.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for primitive recreation consist of upland and waterfowl hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking, hiking, sightseeing, and nature photography. Access routes into the canyon consist of very few undeveloped trails or passages into the canyon. Trail use is basically found near the access routes paralleling the rim or near the two ends of the WSA where major roads are less than one and one-half miles away. There is only one developed trail into the WSA, which has not been maintained and is not signed. The only known well-used trail along the creek bottom is a fisherman's trail that starts at Lilly Grade and goes upstream until it hits a rock slide area. The quality of unconfined recreation is somewhat diminished by the small number of access routes, which tends to concentrate visitors in a narrow corridor of use.

Special Features

The meandering creek inside a 300-600 foot deep canyon provides exceptional scenic and ecological values. Inside this canyon, over 75 species of birds either nest, roost, or visit, including seven species of raptors that nest inside the canyon. There are over 30 species of mammals that live in or visit the canyon, including the kit fox, cougar, bobcat, and feral goat. There is a variety of 65 plant species that exist inside the canyon. Salmon Falls Creek in the WSA provides habitat for six fish species.

Energy Resources

The WSA has four oil and gas leases within its boundary, with two of the leases covering approximately 500 acres. At this time, the lessees are restricted from surface occupancy between canyon rims. Exploration may be conducted using what equipment can be carried in on foot or horseback. The WSA contains none of the requisite geologic criteria for the identification of environments favorable for the accumulation of oil and gas resources. (TERRADATA, 1983) and (SANDBURG, 1983)

There are no hydroelectric plants or power lines that cross inside the WSA. There are existing power lines that parallel the canyon rim or cross less than a mile just north and south of the north and south WSA boundaries. Interest

for future hydroelectric development has been concentrated north of Lilly Grade and near Salmon Falls Dam, both areas outside the WSA.

Cultural Resources

The area is rich in cultural resources with over 50 cultural sites identified either inside or near the WSA. Over 7,700 individual pieces of man-made or cultural material were found during a 1975 field study for cultural resource which included the present WSA. Included in this discovery were lithic tools including projectile points, drills, scrapers, hammer stones, knives, bifaces and biface fragments, preforms, and unclassifiable projectile point fragments.

Motorized Recreation

The WSA is closed to all motorized vehicle use.

HENRY'S LAKE

General Characteristics

The Henry's Lake WSA is a 350-acre tract surrounded on the north and east boundaries by the U.S. Forest Service's proposed 16,860-acre Lion's Head Wilderness. Little human activity has taken place in the WSA. Elevation ranges from 6,600 feet at the southern border to about 7,680 feet at the WSA's northern boundary adjacent to the Forest Service's proposed Lion's Head Wilderness. The WSA has two drainages that generally flow from north to south. They are Pittsburgh Creek in the eastern half and a small, unnamed creek on the western side. Both streams feed the nearby Henry's Lake.

Vegetation in the WSA is varied. Lush riparian vegetation follows the creek courses and includes species such as rose, aspen, willow, serviceberry, and snowberry. The slopes and drainages have scattered stands of Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen. Also growing on the slopes are sagebrush, bitterbrush, and grasses such as needlegrass, mountain brome, fescue, and prairie junegrass. Throughout much of the late spring and summer, wildflowers cover the slopes: lupine, paintbrush, cinquefoil, buckwheat, arrowleaf balsamroot, common yarrow, geranium, gilia, monkeyflower, Oregon grape, pearly everlasting, and asters.

Wildlife species found in the WSA include black bear, elk, moose, deer, and a variety of birds. The area lies within "situation 1" habitat, where management for grizzly bear is given priority over other uses. A nearby landowner reported sighting a cougar in the area.

Land Status

The Henry's Lake WSA contains 350 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings within the WSA.

A small 10-acre parcel at the WSA's southeastern corner has been identified in planning efforts for disposal through sale or exchange. The parcel is adjacent to other developed private homesites. Access across this parcel has been reserved by the Forest Service through a trail right-of-way.

Relationship to Lion's Head RARE II Area

The Henry's Lake WSA is contiguous to the Forest Service's Lion's Head wilderness proposal. Lands and resources within the 350-acre WSA are similar to those found along the Lion's Head southern boundary.

The WSA could not stand on its own as wilderness because of the size of the public land parcel. Without the adjacent 16,860-acre wilderness proposal (USDA, 1985, Targhee National Forest), the area would not qualify and, therefore, is dependent on designation of the Lion's Head Wilderness. The area does offer a small increase in size to the Forest Service proposal and would create, if designated, additional wilderness lands between developed and undeveloped lands.

Communications between the Idaho Falls District, BLM, and the Targhee National Forest have indicated that adding 340 acres of the Henry's Lake WSA to the Lion's Head Wilderness proposal would not conflict with plans of the Forest Service and would be consistent with future management of the area.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

Impacts on naturalness consist of the remnants of a small diversion structure from an abandoned fish hatchery and the evidence from sheep grazing which are localized and negligible. Impacts outside the WSA are the sights and sounds of Highway 287 and rural and recreational developments along the shore of Henry's Lake. These impacts are relatively unnoticeable, except near the WSA's southern border and from the higher vantage points.

Solitude

Opportunities for solitude in this small 350-acre parcel are dependent on the adjacent Lion's Head Wilderness proposal. The Forest Service analysis of solitude for the wilderness proposal is as follows: "Topographic screening enhances the opportunity for solitude which is rated as high."

Throughout the WSA, opportunities for solitude are outstanding. Traveling north into the canyons, vegetative screening is excellent. Topographic features also play an important role as one moves deeper into the area's secluded canyons.

From the tops of the steeper hillsides, the homes on the lakeshore are apparent, but their presence does not affect one's opportunity for solitude. The predominant feeling is rather that of entrance into a wilderness setting--an unconfined and natural space.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for primitive recreation in this small WSA are outstanding and include hiking, camping, horse packing, and wildlife photography. These activities are dependent on the adjacent Lion's Head Wilderness proposal. The Forest Service analysis of primitive recreation opportunities is as follows: "The opportunity for primitive recreation is high, but there are few opportunities for challenging experiences." The small WSA would contribute to the

opportunities for primitive recreation within the proposed wilderness because the area does offer natural features that would attract recreationists.

Special Features

The WSA supports a variety of wildlife species and is part of "Situation 1" grizzly bear habitat. The area is also an important element in the scenery that backdrops Henry's Lake and the mountain range that rises abruptly from the lake's northern shore.

Motorized Vehicle Use

No motor vehicle use occurs in the WSA because it was closed to ORV use by the Medicine Lodge RMP, and because there is no legal access for vehicles across private land along the southern boundary of the WSA.

WORM CREEK

General Characteristics

The Worm Creek WSA is a 40-acre tract surrounded on two sides by the U.S. Forest Service's proposed 16,000-acre Worm Creek Wilderness. The other two sides of the square tract are bounded by private land. Little human activity has taken place in the unit. The topography varies from benchland to steep hillsides. Elevation ranges from 6,500 feet to 7,200 feet. The surrounding terrain contains high elevation basins and steep, rocky mountain peaks. Several peaks on the main ridge near the WSA exceed 9,000 feet.

The WSA varies from a tree-dominated ecotype to brushland at the higher elevations. The lower, moister northern portion of the area supports a dense stand of aspen and a Douglas-fir/lodgepole pine mix. Understory species include mountain maple, Oregon grape, pinegrass, snowberry, willow, and serviceberry.

The Worm Creek area provides a suitable habitat for deer, elk, and a variety of birds and small mammals.

Relationship to Worm Creek RARE II Area

The U.S. Forest Service has recommended the 16,000-acre proposed Worm Creek Wilderness for wilderness designation (USDA, 1985, Caribou National Forest). If the Worm Creek WSA is designated by Congress, then the 40-acre Worm Creek WSA could be included as a small addition to the wilderness area. Otherwise, it will remain a public land access point to the area.

The WSA could not stand on its own as wilderness because of the size of the public land parcel. Without the adjacent 16,000-acre wilderness proposal, the area would not qualify, and, therefore, is dependent on designation of the Worm Creek Wilderness. The area does offer a small increase in size to the Forest Service proposal and would create, if designated, additional wilderness lands between developed and undeveloped lands.

Communications between the Idaho Falls District, BLM, and the Caribou National Forest have indicated that adding the 40-acre WSA to the Worm Creek Wilderness proposal would not conflict with plans of the Forest Service and would be consistent with future management of the area.

Land Status

The Worm Creek WSA contains 40 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings within the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The WSA is a steep foothill environment which supports rich and complex forest vegetation as well as sagebrush and grasses. The natural character of this landscape blends with the high scenic quality of the adjacent U.S. Forest Service land. Impacts to the natural appearance of the area are nonexistent or unnoticeable. Views outside the area include infrequent traffic on the Bloomington Creek Road and nearby farms.

Solitude

Opportunities for solitude in this small 40-acre tract are dependent on the adjacent Worm Creek Wilderness proposal. The Forest Service analysis of solitude for the wilderness proposal is as follows: "The opportunity of solitude is moderate because of the moderate size, high topographic and moderate vegetative screening, and moderate distances from the perimeter to the center of the area." The small WSA would contribute little to opportunities for solitude within the wilderness proposal.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for primitive recreation in this small parcel are dependent on the adjacent Worm Creek Wilderness proposal. The Forest Service analysis of primitive recreation opportunities is as follows: "The opportunity for primitive recreation is moderate because of the moderate area size, many road corridors projecting into the area, high topographic and moderate vegetative screening, and because limited facilities are present." The small WSA would contribute little to the opportunities for primitive recreation within the proposed wilderness because the 40 acres lacks significant natural features that would attract recreationists.

Energy Resources

The Worm Creek WSA lies in a high potential area for discoveries of oil and gas primarily because of its location along the western edge of the Utah-Idaho-Wyoming Overthrust Belt. The Paris-Willard Thrust, a relatively untested portion of the Overthrust Belt, extends in a north-south direction through the area. The Crawford and Meade Thrusts are also thought to underlie the area at greater depths. Stratigraphic rock units which are major producers further east in the Overthrust Belt are known to underlie the area. An oil and gas well drilled four miles southeast of the WSA to a depth of 7,500 feet did not penetrate any thrust sheets, nor did it encounter any hydrocarbons.

Oil and gas leases cover the entire area of the nearby national forest lands and public lands within the WSA. Because of this, Forest Service 1982 mineral reports classify the area as having high potential for oil and gas.

Timber Resource

The 39 acres of commercial forest land is comprised of 63% lodgepole and 33% Douglas-fir. The estimated total stand volume is 600 MBF. The habitat type suggests timber productivity levels will be low to moderate.

The lodgepole pine in the stand is generally of good form and large diameter. Average DBH and height are 11.5 inches and 75 feet, and average age is 90 years. The diameter and age of the stand make the lodgepole presently susceptible to bark beetle attack, and other injurious agents. Some heartrot was found in the lodgepole and some spike tops suggesting blister rust. Animal damage in the lodgepole is minor.

The Douglas-fir is also generally of good form. Its average age is 85 years. Average DBH and height are 14 inches and 65 feet. The average height suggests that some of the trees are approaching a squatty nature. Heartrot was also observed in the Douglas-fir.

Understory species include mountain maple, Oregon grape, pinegrass, snowberry, willow and serviceberry. Seedlings and saplings are lacking throughout the entire stand.

Several open areas with thick brush occur in the upper stretches of the stand with scattered mountain mahogany and cedar.

Motorized Vehicle Use

There is no motorized vehicle use in Worm Creek WSA. None is anticipated because access is prevented by private land and dense vegetation.

GOLDBURG

General Characteristics

The WSA contains 3,290 acres and is located in the Pahsimeroi Valley approximately 25 miles south of Ellis, Idaho. The area is characterized by moderately steep sagebrush/grass-covered slopes with intermittent Douglas-fir patches in the upper elevations. Timbered areas are generally above 7,600 feet. Elevation ranges from 6,800 feet along the western edge to 8,800 feet along the Forest Service boundary.

The WSA provides, as does all of the Pahsimeroi Valley, general summer range for a variety of wildlife, including deer, elk, and antelope. Deer use some of the WSA in the winter also. No crucial or critical habitats have been identified nor are any threatened or endangered species known to occur.

No mining claims exist in the WSA. One hundred acres within the WSA are leased for oil and gas but no exploration has occurred. Other oil and gas leases were allowed to expire and have not been renewed.

Several small intermittent creeks pass through the WSA from the Forest Service lands to the private lands below. These creeks have little fishery resource. As tributaries to Goldburg Creek, they support its population of whitefish, rainbow, and cutthroat trout.

The WSA is part (30%) of the Bear Creek grazing allotment. Several minor range improvements (fences, waterholes, and pipelines) exist within the WSA. There are 1,301 AUMs of livestock use authorized in the allotment. One minor spring development is proposed for construction within the WSA.

No recreational ORV use is known to occur in the WSA. Steep slopes inhibit access. Developed roads north and south of the WSA give access to adjacent Forest Service lands so there is no need for visitors to pass through the WSA.

Of the WSA's 3,290 acres, 1,196 acres are forested. Of these, 930 acres are classified as commercial forest land suitable for management, and 158 acres are withdrawn from timber management due to adverse location. The remaining 108 acres are classified as noncommercial forest land or low production sites. The harvestable timber yield on the suitable commercial forest land is estimated at 124 MBF per year.

Most of the commercial timber is located in the two sections north of the Ditch Creek drainage (Sections 3 and 34). Approximate species composition is 95% Douglas-fir, with the remaining 5% a combination of lodgepole pine and limber pine. Most of the Douglas-fir is medium saw timber of approximately 16 inches DBH. Slopes in the forested areas range from 5 to 75% with an average of 45%.

Relationship to North Lemhi RARE II Area

The WSA is contiguous with the North Lemhi RARE II Area (340,416 acres). The State Director's Final Decision of May 31, 1979 (Wilderness Inventory Decision - Proposed Donkey Hills State Land Exchange), made clear the dependence of this WSA on the RARE II Area to justify its status as potential wilderness. The decision stated on page 2: "Should the contiguous RARE II Area be placed into the nonwilderness category, the BLM lands will be dropped from further wilderness consideration." The final Challis National Forest Plan did not recommend the North Lemhi RARE II Area for wilderness (USDA, 1987).

Land Status

The Goldburg WSA contains 3,290 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings.

Wilderness Values

The WSA presents a natural appearing environment. The few range improvements are scattered and inconsequential. Due to a remote location and in conjunction with adjacent roadless lands, the WSA offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. No special features have been identified.

Anadromous Fishery Resources - Pahsimeroi River

The WSA has no on-site anadromous fishery. It does contain part of the headwaters of Goldburg Creek, which, in turn, is a tributary of the Pahsimeroi River, which does have an anadromous fishery. So, actions in the WSA which alter existing water quality could impact downstream fishery habitat. The Lower Pahsimeroi River is historic anadromous fish spawning habitat and is the site of an Idaho Fish and Game fish hatchery. The quality of water in the Pahsimeroi directly affects the Salmon River also.

BOULDER CREEK

General Characteristics

The WSA contains 1,930 acres and is located near the East Fork of the Salmon River approximately 25 air miles southwest of Challis, Idaho. The area is characterized by moderately steep sagebrush/grass-covered slopes with small timber patches on the north and south ends. Elevation ranges from 6,160 feet near the confluence of Big Boulder Creek and the East Fork to 8,000 feet. Little Boulder Creek flows through the center of the WSA.

The WSA provides general summer and winter range for deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. There are no identified crucial winter range areas for wildlife in the WSA.

No mining claims exist in the WSA. An oil and gas lease application has been filed which includes all of the WSA. No lease will be issued before the WSA is released from the wilderness study process. No oil and gas activity has occurred in this area, which is overlain with several thousand feet of lava flow. Energy and mineral resource potential is low.

The WSA is part of the East Fork grazing allotment which includes BLM, State, and Forest Service lands. There are 288 AUMs authorized in the allotment. The WSA encompasses 12% of the 16,271 acres in the allotment. There are two short livestock water pipelines in the WSA. No other range improvements are planned.

Three Forest Service trails which provide access to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) pass through the WSA. The Little Boulder Creek trail has the potential to be a major access route. Current use is limited because the owner of the private land closes the access road leading to the trailhead. This closure is in effect from May to September/October each year when the owner is in residence. Motorized recreational use is limited to trailbikes and is estimated to be 20 user days per year. Most of this is "pass through" use by individuals heading into the SNRA.

There are no commercial timber lands in the WSA. There is no demand for other forest product sales.

Relationship to Boulder-White Clouds RARE II Area

The WSA is contiguous with the larger (433,000 acres) Boulder-White Cloud RARE II Area. The State Director's Final Decision January 3, 1980 (Idaho Intensive Wilderness Inventory - Challis Planning Area), stated: "The unit adjoins RARE II Further Planning Wilderness Unit 4-551 and is dependent on it to meet the size requirement." The final SNRA plan does not recommend the adjacent Forest Service lands for wilderness (USDA, 1987, Sawtooth National Forest).

Land Status

The Boulder Creek WSA contains 1,930 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings.

Wilderness Values

The WSA presents a natural-appearing environment. The few range improvements are scattered and inconsequential. The WSA is in a remote location, and, in conjunction with adjacent roadless lands, it offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. No special features have been identified.

Anadromous Fishery Resources

Little Boulder Creek provides both anadromous and resident fish habitat. A fish trapping facility was recently constructed just downstream from the Little Boulder Creek/East Fork confluence to aid the Idaho Fish and Game Department in their anadromous fishery recovery program.

BORAH PEAK

General Characteristics

The WSA contains 3,100 acres, and there are another 780 acres under consideration on the northern end of the WSA but outside the WSA boundary. The unit is located 15 miles northwest of Mackay, Idaho. The area is characterized by moderately steep to steep slopes sparsely covered with sagebrush-grass vegetation. The area is very dry and extremely rocky. No year-round creeks or streams occur. Elkhorn Creek is usually dewatered (when it has water) by an irrigation diversion.

No mining claims or oil and gas leases exist in the WSA or additional area. The western boundary of the WSA is defined by an existing high voltage transmission line.

The WSA and the additional 780 acres are part (55%) of the Whiskey Springs grazing allotment. Two miles of pasture division fence and two miles of buried water pipeline exist within the WSA. There is .8 mile of buried water pipeline within the additional 780 acres. There are 280 AUMs of livestock use authorized in the allotment.

A limited amount of motorized recreation use of not more than ten visitor days probably occurs in the lower Elkhorn Creek area due to the obvious access road to the water diversion site. The extremely rough rocky terrain inhibits any other use.

Of the total study area of 3,880 acres, 311 acres are forested. From these, 97 acres are classified as commercial forest land suitable for management, and six acres are withdrawn from timber management due to adverse location. The remaining 208 acres are classified as non-commercial forest land or low production sites. The harvestable timber yield on the suitable commercial forest land is estimated at 14 MBF per year.

Most of the commercial timber is located in the Elkhorn Creek drainage. Approximate species composition is 75% Douglas-fir, 20% limber pine, and 5% Rocky Mountain juniper. Most of the Douglas-fir is medium saw timber, or approximately 16 inches in diameter. Slopes in the forested areas range from 15 to 75% with an average of 55%.

Relationship to Borah Peak Proposed Wilderness Area

Part of the WSA and 780 additional acres are contiguous with that portion of the Borah Peak RARE II Area that the U.S. Forest Service has identified as proposed wilderness area. The Land Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest recommends 119,000 acres for wilderness designation (USDA, 1987, Challis National Forest). (See Map 7.)

Land Status

The Borah Peak WSA contains 3,100 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings. The 780 acres outside the WSA that are also being considered are all public land.

Wilderness Values

The WSA and the additional 780 acres present a natural-appearing environment with the exception of the buried Elkhorn Creek diversion pipeline route, which is being reclaimed. The few range improvements are scattered and inconsequential. In conjunction with adjacent Forest Service roadless lands, the WSA offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. By itself, the WSA does not offer these outstanding opportunities.

Wildlife Habitat

The WSA and the grazing allotment are crucial winter range for 500 to 1,000 antelope and 400 mule deer. Mule deer and antelope also use the area as spring range. The actual winter numbers depend on the severity of the winter weather. Bighorn sheep and elk are not known to use the WSA.

LITTLE WOOD RIVER

General Characteristics

The Little Wood River WSA is dominated by rugged mountainous terrain cut by steep drainages including the Little Wood River, Chicken Creek, Buck Creek, and Brown Creek. Elevations range from 5,620 feet to 7,879 feet. At the higher elevations, Douglas-fir and groves of quaking aspen are common. Sagebrush and grasses dominate the lower elevations. The Little Wood River is lined with a dense riparian zone which includes cottonwoods and willows.

Numerous wildlife species including elk, deer, black bear, upland game birds, and trout are found within the WSA. The WSA is entirely within the Elk Mountain Crucial Elk Winter Range ACEC. All public lands within the ACEC were closed to vehicles on October 1, 1982 (Sun Valley ORV Designation, 1982).

Relationship to Pioneer Mountains RARE II Area

The Little Wood River WSA is contiguous with the U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area, Pioneer Mountains. The WSA is a logical extension of the Pioneer Mountains RARE II area.

The Pioneer Mountains RARE II area has been recommended suitable for wilderness designation by the U.S. Forest Service (USDA, 1987, Sawtooth National Forest). The suitable wilderness recommendation for the Little Wood River WSA is dependent upon a suitable recommendation for the Pioneer Mountains RARE II area.

Land Status

The Little Wood River WSA contains 4,265 acres of public land in two parcels. The eastern parcel contains 825 acres; the western parcel contains 3,440 acres. Both are contiguous with the USFS Pioneer Mountains RARE II area. There are no State or private inholdings within the WSA.

One 120-acre parcel of State land is bounded on the east, south, and west by the Little Wood River WSA and on the north by the Pioneer Mountains RARE II area. (See Map 8.)

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The WSA is natural in appearance. The rugged mountainsides appear unaffected by the works of man. Although livestock grazing has affected the vegetation along the Little Wood River drainage, the canyon's dense riparian vegetation remains natural in appearance.

A closed vehicle trail extends 1,500 feet into the WSA along the Little Wood River from the south boundary.

Solitude

The WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The WSA's rugged mountainous topography, dense riparian vegetation along the Little Wood River, and stands of Douglas-fir and quaking aspen in the higher elevations, combined with the WSA's proximity to the Pioneer Mountains provide numerous opportunities for solitude. Visitors to the area can feel isolated virtually anywhere in the WSA.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Little Wood River WSA contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The area is used as a trailhead by hikers, horse packers, and hunters to access the Pioneer Mountains. A diversity of recreational opportunities including fishing, camping, hunting, photography, and sightseeing are available within the area.

Special Features

The WSA makes up approximately 55 percent of the public lands within the 11,887-acre Elk Mountain Crucial Elk Winter Range Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The ACEC is managed primarily for the long-term protection of winter habitat for elk. This area is essential to the long-term survival of an elk herd of up to 400 animals that summer in the Pioneer Mountains and winter in the ACEC. The area also supports year-round populations of mule deer, blue grouse, and sage grouse. Raptors use the cottonwoods in the canyon bottoms for nest sites.

Motorized Recreation

All public lands within the WSA were closed to motorized vehicle use on October 1, 1982. There is no ORV use of the area.

Energy and Mineral Resources

The WSA has low oil, gas, and geothermal potential and moderate favorability for silver and zinc. (Geology, Energy, Mineral Resource Evaluation of the Pioneer Mountains GRA October, 1983.) There are no mining claims within the WSA and few mining claims adjacent to the WSA.

Based on the low leasable mineral potential and lack of locatable mineral activity, there is little potential for mineral development within the WSA.

BLACK BUTTE

General Characteristics

The WSA is dominated by Black Butte, an inactive volcano of recent origin rising about 200 feet above the surrounding lava. The vent of this volcano is an irregularly-shaped subsidence crater up to 1/2 mile wide and 80 to 200 feet deep. The crater contains a jumbled variety of lava benches, cliffs, jagged outcrops, lava tubes, and vents. The flanks of Black Butte are covered with young lava that has fractured into polygonal plates up to four feet across and one to six inches thick.

The basalt in the area varies in color from black to purplish-black on the exposed desert varnished surfaces with a dull, brownish-red on the under surface.

Although the younger lava and the crater are virtually devoid of vegetation, the lower flanks of the butte support a mixed shrub-grass community.

Wildlife in the WSA includes elk, chukar partridge, bobcat, and mule deer. Golden eagles nest in the crater.

Land Status

The Black Butte WSA contains 4,068 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings within the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The naturalness of the WSA has been significantly reduced by lava rock mining activity. Areas of lava rock removal are obvious because the exposed reddish under surface of the black lava plates contrast greatly with surrounding undisturbed areas. Intensively mined areas are visible from a distance.

Roads and trails created to support mining wind over and around the butte in the central part of the WSA. Even when the surface lava is not removed, heavy equipment use on the roads and trails has broken and crushed the surface, changing its color and texture. This results in substantially noticeable roads and trails that cannot be reclaimed.

Portions of the WSA outside the mining area remain natural-appearing. These areas include the butte's southern flanks, the interior crater, and most of the southern part of the WSA.

Solitude

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in the WSA because of the topographic screening provided by the irregular surface on the slopes of Black Butte and the extremely rough terrain in the vent area.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist in the WSA. Recreational opportunities include hiking, photography, camping, and nature study.

Although opportunities exist in the area, recreation use is virtually nonexistent. The low use that does occur is centered around the interior crater.

Special Features

The WSA is an extraordinary example of recent volcanic activity and is easily accessible from State Highway 75. Because of this, the area offers an exceptional opportunity for geologic studies.

Motorized Recreation

The WSA is open to ORV use. The rough terrain and primitive condition of existing vehicle trails limit recreational ORV use to less than 75 visitor days annually.

Lava Mining

All activities in the WSA are regulated under the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP) (December 12, 1979, revised July 12, 1983). Since the Black Butte WSA is less than 5,000 acres, locatable mining activities are exempt from the nonimpairment criteria for the IMP and are regulated under the 43 CFR 3809 Regulations, "Surface Management of Public Lands Under U.S. Mining Laws" (November 26, 1980). Mining activities under the 3809 regulations are regulated to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. Mining activity regulated under the 3809 regulations may impair wilderness values.

Veneer lava in the Black Butte area consists of polygonal plates three to four feet wide and one to six inches thick. The thin sheets of lava are light weight and, therefore, desirable for a variety of decorative building uses. The rock possesses a popular color and texture combination.

Lava rock is generally considered a "common variety" saleable mineral. Saleable minerals are disposed of through a contract of sale for the appraised value or a free-use permit. The location of mining claims on common variety minerals is prohibited by law unless the material has special properties and economic value that allows classification of the material as a locatable mineral.

Removal of the lava rock from the Black Butte area has been occurring since the early 1970s. Assuming a common variety classification, BLM established a community pit on the west side of the crater in 1973.

In 1978, association placer claims for building stone were located on and around the crater. BLM began a preliminary market study and claim validity investigation to determine whether the Black Butte lava rock should be classified as a saleable or locatable mineral. Completed in July 1981, the validity exam found portions of 11 80-acre placer claims valid. The 56 valid 10-acre tracts within the 11 claims cover 560 acres on and around Black Butte.

Following an accelerated inventory, the decision to designate the Black Butte WSA was published in the Federal Register on June 1, 1979. The WSA boundary includes approximately 510 acres of the valid claims.

In 1985, additional mining claims were located within the eastern part of the Black Butte WSA. Because the material on these claims is similar to the material on the claims investigated in the 1981 validity exam, BLM concluded that another validity exam was unnecessary. In April 1986, a mining plan of operations for activities on the new claims was authorized. Currently, two mining companies are operating within the WSA.

Access to the mining area is via a network of primitive roads into the WSA from the east and west. Removal of the veneer lava entails hand stacking the stone on pallets in central locations throughout the area being mined. A loader moves the pallets of stone to a dual-axle two-ton truck which transports the stone out of the WSA. The veneer lava is not costly to mine. A profit of \$30 to \$80 per ton is estimated.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

BOX CREEK

PROPOSED ACTION/NO WILDERNESS

The proposed action is to recommend all 440 acres within the Box Creek WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The entire area would be managed for other multiple uses as identified in the Cascade Resource Management Plan (USDI, 1987).

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Naturalness

Approximately one and one-quarter miles of roads constructed for timber harvest would reduce naturalness within the WSA. Although the roads would be closed and rehabilitated following timber harvest, they would be reopened periodically for additional harvests and would be substantially noticeable over the long term (15 years and beyond). Skid trails and yarding areas would also be noticeable but would become less apparent over the long term as they revegetate. Stumps and slash left by selective cutting within the WSA would moderately reduce the natural appearance of the forest.

The three-quarter mile of access road for the hydroelectric project would reduce naturalness in the southern portion of the WSA and would be substantially noticeable over most of the WSA over the long term. The area disturbed during penstock burial (3,000 feet by 50 feet) would be rehabilitated and would become less noticeable over the long term.

Solitude

The sights and sounds associated with timber harvest activities within the WSA would periodically eliminate opportunities for solitude. This impact would be minimal because timber harvest activities would occur infrequently and visitor use is expected to remain low over the long term. In addition, the sights and sounds associated with salvage logging operations and motorized use within the adjacent roadless area would be noticeable from within the WSA and would also reduce opportunity for solitude within the WSA over the long term. Timber harvest activities on the adjacent State of Idaho lands would also be noticeable and would further periodically reduce solitude opportunities within the WSA. This impact from activities on adjacent lands would be noticeable over the entire WSA over the long term.

Maintenance activities (primarily vehicle traffic along the access road) for the hydroelectric project would also reduce solitude opportunities. This impact would occur continuously (weekly) over the long term and would be noticeable over most of the WSA.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Timber harvest activities within the WSA would reduce opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The presence of roads and other evidence of logging would change the character of the area from primitive to roaded natural. During the periodic timber harvest activities, primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities would be lost because of the presence of logging personnel and equipment. Between harvest intervals, these opportunities would be lost because of the presence of roads and other evidence of timber harvest such as skid trails and yarding areas. These opportunities would be lost over the entire WSA over the long term.

Hydroelectric development would reduce the primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities because of the presence of the access road and maintenance activities (vehicle traffic and personnel) on the road along the southern boundary of the WSA. This impact would be noticeable over much of the WSA and would occur continuously over the long term.

Conclusion

Naturalness would be lost over most of the WSA over the long term because of logging roads associated with timber harvest and the access road associated with hydroelectric development.

Solitude would be reduced over the entire WSA over the long term because of hydroelectric development and timber harvest activities within the WSA and on adjacent lands and because of motorized vehicle use on adjacent lands.

Primitive and unconfined recreation would be lost over the WSA over the long term because of roads and activities associated with timber harvest and hydroelectric development.

Impacts on Adjacent U.S. Forest Service Secesh Roadless Area

The sights and sounds associated with timber harvest within the WSA would be noticeable over about 2,000 acres (or about 10%) of the roadless area immediately adjacent to the WSA. This impact would be minimal because timber harvest activities would occur infrequently, and visitor use in the roadless area is expected to remain low over the long term. In addition, the roadless area would allow for salvage logging operations along existing roads and motorized use, both of which would be noticeable to visitors within the roadless area. Timber harvest activities on adjacent State of Idaho lands would also be noticeable within the roadless area.

Conclusion

The sights and sounds associated with timber harvest activities within the WSA would be noticeable within about 10% of the adjacent roadless area but would have a minimal impact on visitors within the roadless area.

Impacts on Hydroelectric Development

There would be no impact on hydroelectric development since the proposed action would allow for the construction and operation of the project as described in Chapter 2.

Impacts on Timber Harvest

There would be no impact on timber harvest within the WSA, since it has been allowed for in the Cascade Resource Management Plan (USDI, 1987).

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Motorized vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails within the WSA. This designation was identified in the Cascade Resource Management Plan and was based on soil type and potential erosion hazard. Since there are no roads or trails in the WSA, no ORV use occurs now, and no future roads or trails would be open for general vehicle use, there would be no impact on motorized vehicle use.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

Impacts on Wildlife

Selective cut timber harvest would allow increased grass, forb, and shrub growth which is beneficial to deer and elk. Deer and elk would be temporarily displaced during timber harvest activities, and use in the WSA would fluctuate with successional changes in the vegetative community. Over the long term, deer and elk use would increase by up to 5% within the WSA. Black bear, which prefer mature forests, would be temporarily displaced during timber harvest activities, and use over the long term would decrease by up to 2% due to habitat changes. Franklin grouse, blue grouse, and ruffed grouse, which also prefer mature forests, would be temporarily displaced during timber harvest activities, and use over the long term would decrease by up to 3% due to habitat changes.

Conclusion

Deer and elk use within the WSA would increase by up to 5% over the long term, and bear and forest grouse use would decrease by up to 2% and 3%, respectively.

Impacts on the Fishery Resource

Timber harvest activities and associated road construction would occur on soils with a high or very high hazard of erosion. Selective cutting would be done and would minimize soil disturbance and potential sediment yield. The use of roads and skid trails would result in a short term (one to three year) increase in sediment yield to Box Creek, the only perennial stream in the WSA. Erosion and compaction would be minimized by ripping, water barring, reseeding, and closing roads and skid trails following timber harvest. Sediment yield to Box

Creek would be minimized by excluding timber harvest activities within 100 feet of the riparian zone along Box Creek to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. Short term sediment increases in Box Creek of up to 20% would occur periodically during timber harvest activities and would slightly degrade water quality for one to three years. Over the long term (15 years and beyond), sedimentation in Box Creek would increase by up to 10%, and overall water quality would be degraded slightly due to timber harvest activities on the WSA.

The hydroelectric project would contribute to increased sediments in Box Creek from road construction and use and penstock burial. Short term sediment increases of up to 10% would occur for one to three years due to soil losses from the area disturbed during penstock burial. The area disturbed would be rehabilitated, and sediment yield from this source would decrease to near preproject levels over the long term. The access road would be maintained and would continue to contribute sediment over the long term. Over the long term, sediment yield to Box Creek due to hydroelectric development would increase by up to 5%, and overall water quality would be degraded slightly.

Sediment increases in Box Creek associated with timber harvest activities and hydroelectric development would cause fine sediments to accumulate in fish spawning gravels. Reduced streamflows in some years due to reduced precipitation and runoff may not be adequate to flush these sediments from the spawning gravels, resulting in reduced hatching success and reduced fish populations. Over the long term, fish populations would be reduced by up to 10% due to sediment increases associated with timber harvest activities and hydroelectric development.

Conclusion

Sediment increases in Box Creek from both timber harvest activities and hydroelectric development would slightly reduce fish habitat quality and fish populations by up to 10% over the long term. Box Creek would be impacted for a total distance of approximately three miles, extending from the eastern boundary of the WSA downstream through the WSA for approximately one mile to the western boundary of the WSA, and then downstream for approximately two miles through State of Idaho lands.

Impacts on the Gray Wolf

Human activities associated with timber harvest and hydroelectric development would probably cause the gray wolf, an endangered species that prefers undisturbed areas, to avoid the WSA. Since human activity presently occurs and would continue to occur throughout the vicinity, and individual wolves may use the WSA only occasionally, there would be no measureable impact on this species from either timber harvest activities or hydroelectric development.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on the gray wolf.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

This alternative would recommend that all 440 acres of the Box Creek WSA are suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The three-quarter mile of access road for the hydroelectric project constructed just outside of the southern boundary of the WSA would reduce naturalness and be substantially noticeable over approximately 75% of the WSA over the long term (15 years and beyond). The area disturbed during penstock burial (3,000 feet by 50 feet) would be rehabilitated and would become less noticeable over the long term.

Solitude

The sights and sounds associated with salvage logging operations and motorized use within the adjacent roadless area would be noticeable from within the WSA and would reduce opportunities for solitude within the WSA over the long term. Timber harvest activities on the adjacent State of Idaho lands would also be noticeable and would further periodically reduce solitude opportunities within the WSA. This impact from activities on adjacent lands would be noticeable over approximately 90% of the WSA over the long term.

Maintenance activities (primarily vehicle traffic along the access road) for the hydroelectric project on adjacent lands would also reduce solitude opportunities. This impact would occur continuously (weekly) over the long term and would be noticeable over approximately 75% of the WSA.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Timber harvest activities on adjacent lands would reduce opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation regardless of the suitability or non-suitability for wilderness of the WSA. During the periodic timber harvest activities, primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities would be reduced over approximately 90% of the WSA because of the presence of logging personnel and equipment on adjacent lands. These opportunities would be lost along the boundary of the WSA over the long term because of views of adjacent areas disturbed by logging.

Hydroelectric development on adjacent lands would reduce primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities because of the presence of the access road and maintenance activities (vehicle traffic and personnel) on the road just outside of the southern boundary of the WSA. This impact would be noticeable over approximately 75% of the WSA and would occur continuously over the long term.

Conclusion

Naturalness would be reduced over 75% of the WSA over the long term because of roads associated with hydroelectric development on adjacent lands.

Solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be reduced over 90% of the WSA over the long term because of timber harvest activities on adjacent lands and because of motorized vehicle use and hydroelectric development on adjacent lands.

Impacts on Adjacent U.S. Forest Service Secesh Roadless Area

The U.S. Forest Service has decided (USDA, 1988) that approximately 20,000 acres of the Secesh roadless area - the 20,000 acres adjacent to the Box Creek WSA - will be managed as a semi-primitive motorized area. Managing the 440 acres of the Box Creek WSA as wilderness would have no affect on the Forest Service roadless area.

Conclusion

This alternative would have no affect on the Secesh roadless area.

Impacts on Hydroelectric Development

There would be minimal impact on hydroelectric development. The proposed project, including a penstock and access road, would be relocated approximately one-eighth mile to the south and just outside of the WSA boundary.

Impacts on Timber Harvest

Timber harvest within the WSA would be precluded and a harvest of approximately 500,000 board feet of timber every 30 years would not be realized.

Impacts on Motorized Vehicle Recreation

Motorized vehicle use would be precluded within the WSA. Since there is no current or projected vehicle use within the WSA, there would be no impact on motorized vehicle recreation.

Impacts on Wildlife

Over the long term, there would be no impacts to the wildlife populations within the WSA. Since this area is now in a climax vegetative stage, and would remain so in the future under a wilderness designation, changes in habitat quality and wildlife populations would be minimal.

Conclusion

There would be no impacts on wildlife populations over the long term.

Impacts on the Fishery Resource

No surface-disturbing, sediment-producing activity would take place in the WSA under this alternative. Timber harvest activities and maintenance and use of the access road for the hydroelectric project on adjacent lands, however, would likely contribute sediment to Box Creek and could slightly degrade water quality in Box Creek over the long term. These impacts resulting from timber harvest and hydroelectric development on adjacent lands are projected to be the same under both alternatives.

Sediment yield to Box Creek associated with timber harvest and hydroelectric project activities on lands adjacent to the WSA would likely cause fine sediments to accumulate in fish spawning gravels. Reduced streamflows in some years due to reduced precipitation and runoff may not be adequate to flush these sediments from the spawning gravels, resulting in reduced hatching success and reduced fish populations. Over the long term, fish populations could be slightly reduced due to sediment increases associated with timber harvest and hydroelectric project activities on adjacent lands. These impacts resulting from timber harvest and hydroelectric development on adjacent lands are projected to be the same under both alternatives.

Conclusion

No activities would occur in the WSA that would affect the fishery resource, but activities on lands adjacent to the WSA would likely increase sediment and could slightly reduce fish populations in Box Creek over the long term.

Impacts on the Gray Wolf

No activities in the WSA would affect threatened or endangered species, but human activities associated with timber harvest and hydroelectric development on adjacent lands may cause the gray wolf, an endangered species that prefers undisturbed areas, to avoid the WSA. Since human activity presently occurs and would continue to occur throughout the vicinity, and individual wolves may use the WSA only occasionally, there would be no measureable impact on this species within the WSA from either timber harvest or hydroelectric development on adjacent lands.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on the gray wolf.

LOWER SALMON FALLS CREEK

PROPOSED ACTION/NO WILDERNESS

The proposed action is to recommend the entire 3,500 acre WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The WSA is within an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) which is bounded by Salmon Falls Dam on the south and Balanced Rock road crossing on the north. The boundary of the ONA on the west side of the creek is the west rim of the canyon while the eastern boundary would be the east rim.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The area will be managed as an ONA for the study and protection of its natural, scenic, and cultural values as well as providing primitive recreation opportunities in the canyon. The ONA management includes the following restrictions: no hydroelectric development will be allowed in the canyon; oil and gas leasing would be allowed but restricted to no surface occupancy within the canyon; no livestock grazing, motorized vehicles, or new utility rights-of-way are allowed within the canyon. With the restrictions imposed by ONA management, no actions are proposed that would have any effect on naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation, and special features of the WSA.

Conclusion

The No Wilderness alternative would have no impact on the naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation, and special features of the WSA.

Impacts on Hydroelectric Development

Current land use plans close the canyon to hydroelectric projects and utility lines. There would be no impact from this alternative.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to hydroelectric development from this alternative.

Impacts on Oil and Gas Development

The area will still be open to oil and gas exploration and leasing but would be restricted to no surface occupancy within the canyon.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to oil and gas exploration and development from this alternative.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

The WSA's cultural resources are protected under the Outstanding Natural Area designation. No activities predicted to be harmful to cultural resources would be allowed.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to cultural resources from this alternative.

Impacts on Potential Bighorn Sheep Management

The nonwilderness alternative will not alter existing plans to consider bighorn sheep introduction. There are no management actions proposed that would have an adverse impact on bighorn sheep. The restrictions that are already in effect for the ONA management would protect any introduced bighorn sheep from competition with livestock, intrusion from motorized vehicles, or the human intrusions associated with utility rights-of-way.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to bighorn sheep introduction.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

The current land use plans close the canyon to motorized recreation. No impacts on motorized recreation would occur.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to motorized recreation.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

This alternative is to recommend the entire WSA as suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The All Wilderness alternative would protect, preserve, and enhance the wilderness values of the WSA. Opportunities for people seeking solitude or primitive recreation activities and the area's natural appearance and wild character would remain basically unchanged.

Conclusion

There would be no impacts on wilderness values from this alternative.

Impacts on Hydroelectric Development

Hydroelectric projects are prohibited by current land use plans and would continue to be prohibited. There would be no impact from this alternative.

Impacts on Oil and Gas Development

The potential for discovering economically recoverable amounts of oil and gas is rated low to medium by BLM geologists. Wilderness designation would cause the mineral industry to lose the long-term opportunity to explore within the canyon. Oil and gas deposits that might exist could be developed from outside the narrow WSA, however.

Conclusion

This alternative would deny the opportunity to explore within the canyon. The restriction on development would remain as it is now; so there would be no impact on development.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

Wilderness designation would have no impact on cultural resources, which are protected under the ONA management.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on cultural resources from this alternative.

Impacts on Bighorn Sheep Introduction

This alternative would not alter existing plans to consider bighorn sheep introduction. Present restrictions against livestock grazing, new utility rights-of-way, and motorized vehicles would continue and would protect any bighorn sheep that might be introduced into the canyon.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on bighorn sheep introduction.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

This alternative would continue the existing closure to ORVs; therefore, no new impacts on motorized recreation would occur.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to motorized recreation from this alternative.

HENRY'S LAKE

PROPOSED ACTION/PARTIAL WILDERNESS

The proposed action is to recommend 340 acres of the Henry's Lake WSA as suitable for wilderness designation and to recommend 10 acres in the southeastern corner of the WSA as unsuitable for designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Area Recommended Suitable

Wilderness management would preserve the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation on the 340 acres of the Henry's Lake WSA recommended suitable. The special features ("Situation 1" grizzly bear habitat, scenic value) would be unchanged.

Area Recommended Nonsuitable

The 10 acres recommended nonsuitable would be transferred out of public ownership and would likely be developed for recreational homesites. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation would be lost on the 10 acres. The special features ("situation 1" grizzly bear habitat, scenic value) would also be lost. The loss of scenic value would be insignificant because the acres are within sight and sound of a paved highway and homesites. The loss of "situation 1" habitat would be negligible because grizzly bears do not use the 10 acres now.

Conclusion

Wilderness values would be maintained on the 340 acres recommended suitable and lost on the 10 acres recommended nonsuitable.

Impacts on Lion's Head Roadless Area

The Lion's Head roadless area's wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation would be enhanced by the addition of 340 acres with these same values. This addition would increase the size of the proposed wilderness by 2%.

Conclusion

The Lion's Head wilderness values would be enhanced by this alternative.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Area Recommended Suitable

The portion of the WSA recommended suitable is closed to motorized recreation by the Medicine Lodge RMP. It would remain closed under this alternative; so no impact on motorized recreation would occur.

Area Recommended Nonsuitable

The portion of the WSA recommended nonsuitable is closed to motorized recreation by the Medicine Lodge RMP. Since it is expected to be transferred out of public ownership and developed for homesites under this alternative, it would still not be available for motorized recreation. There would, therefore, be no effect on motorized recreation.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on motorized recreation on either the area recommended suitable or the area recommended nonsuitable.

Impacts on Realty Actions

Area Recommended Suitable

No realty actions are proposed for the portion of the WSA recommended suitable. There would, therefore, be no effect on realty actions in that part of the area.

Area Recommended Nonsuitable

The Medicine Lodge RMP proposes that the part of the WSA recommended nonsuitable be disposed of through sale or exchange. This realty action would be allowed under this alternative.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on proposed realty actions under this alternative.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

The All Wilderness alternative would recommend all 350 acres of the Henry's Lake WSA suitable for designation as wilderness.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All 350 acres of the WSA could be retained and managed as wilderness. The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation would be unchanged under this alternative. The special features, including grizzly bear habitat, would also be unchanged.

Conclusion

Wilderness values and special features would be unchanged.

Impacts on Lion's Head Roadless Area

The Lion's Head roadless area's wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and opportunity for primitive recreation would be enhanced by the addition of the Henry's Lake WSA. The additional 10 acres recommended suitable under this alternative would have no effect on the roadless area's wilderness values.

Conclusion

The roadless area's wilderness values would be enhanced by this alternative.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

All 350 acres would remain closed to motorized recreation. There would be no change from the present situation in opportunity or use level.

Conclusion

There would be no impacts on motorized recreation.

Impacts on Realty Actions

The disposal of the 10 acres in the southeast corner of the WSA would not be carried out. The 10 acres would not be available to consummate high public value exchanges.

Conclusion

The realty action proposed in the Medicine Lodge RMP would not be carried out.

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

The no wilderness alternative would recommend all 350 acres of the WSA nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The wilderness values on Henry's Lake WSA would be affected as under the proposed action. The two parcels totaling 10 acres would be disposed of and the wilderness values would be lost. The wilderness values on the 340 acres retained are not projected to change. Without wilderness designation, permanent protection from the effects of resource development (range and wildlife management projects, timber harvest) would not be guaranteed. No such development is projected, however, because of the steep slopes of the retained portion of the WSA. The special features ("situation 1" grizzly bear habitat, scenic value) would be unchanged on the 340 acres retained and lost on the 10 acres transferred out of public ownership. The loss on the 10 acres would be negligible because grizzly bear do not use these 10 acres, and the scenic value is limited by proximity to homesites and a highway.

Conclusion

The wilderness values and special features of the Henry's Lake WSA would be unaffected on 340 acres and lost on 10 acres.

Impacts on Lion's Head Roadless area

The wilderness values of the Lion's Head roadless area would be unaffected by this alternative. The 340 acres adjacent to the roadless area would remain closed to motor vehicles, and no uses are projected that would affect the roadless area.

Conclusion

The Lion's Head roadless area would be unaffected.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

The WSA is closed to motorized recreation by the Medicine Lodge RMP and would remain closed under this alternative. On the 10 acres that is expected to be transferred out of public ownership and developed for homesites, public access for recreation is expected to be denied by the landowners. Therefore, there would be no change in motorized recreation opportunity or use levels.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

Impacts on Realty Actions

The realty actions proposed in the Medicine Lodge RMP would be completed. The 10 acres in the southeast corner of the WSA would be used to effect high public value exchanges.

WORM CREEK

PROPOSED ACTION/ALL WILDERNESS

The proposed action is to recommend all 40 acres of the Worm Creek WSA as suitable for designation as wilderness.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Designation of the Worm Creek WSA as wilderness in conjunction with designation of the Worm Creek roadless area would preserve the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation on the WSA.

Conclusion

Wilderness designation of Worm Creek WSA would preserve its wilderness values.

Impacts on Worm Creek Roadless Area

The designation of Worm Creek WSA as wilderness would enhance the Worm Creek roadless area's wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation by the addition of 40 acres with these same values. This addition would increase the size of the Forest Service's proposed Worm Creek wilderness by one-fourth of one percent.

Conclusion

Designation of the Worm Creek WSA as wilderness would very slightly enhance the Worm Creek roadless area's wilderness values.

Impacts on Oil and Gas Development

Designation of these 40 acres as wilderness would withdraw them from leasing under the mineral leasing laws. The area is identified as having high potential for oil and gas. However, given the small size of the parcel and the State's well-spacing requirements of 640 acres per gas well and 160 acres per oil well, it is likely that, if oil or gas were discovered, it would be recovered without occupying the surface of the 40 acres even if the WSA were not designated wilderness.

Conclusion

Designation of Worm Creek WSA as wilderness would likely have no impact on oil and gas development.

Impacts on Timber Harvest

Designation of the WSA as wilderness would preclude harvest of the 39 acres of commercial forest land in the area. On an annual basis, this would be a loss of approximately one one-hundredth of the Idaho Falls District's allowable cut.

Conclusion

Designation of Worm Creek WSA as wilderness would not have a significant impact on timber harvest.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

There is presently no motorized recreation use on the 40 acres of the WSA because private land and dense vegetation prevent access. Under this alternative, the 40 acres would be legally closed to motorized recreation, but the wilderness designation would not change the present on-the-ground situation.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

The No Wilderness alternative is to recommend all 40 acres of the Worm Creek WSA as nonsuitable for designation as wilderness.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Timber harvest would eliminate the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation on the Worm Creek WSA, under the No Wilderness alternative.

Conclusion

Wilderness values would be lost on 40 acres.

Impacts on Worm Creek Roadless Area

Under this alternative, timber harvest could occur in the 40-acre Worm Creek WSA. This activity is projected to take place three times in 40 years. During the logging operations, sounds would carry into an estimated 120 acres of the adjacent 16,000-acre Worm Creek roadless area. This effect would be infrequent and of short duration. The shelterwood harvest of the Douglas-fir and the clearcutting of the lodgepole pine would change the appearance of the 40-acre WSA. This change would have little effect on the wilderness values of the roadless area. Few visitors would notice the change because the WSA is not an access point to the roadless area, and the WSA is visible from less than one per cent of the roadless area.

Conclusion

Nondesignation of the Worm Creek WSA would have no significant impact on the Worm Creek RARE II Area's wilderness values.

Impacts on Oil and Gas Development

The 40-acre WSA would be open to oil and gas exploration and development. There would be no impact to energy resources under this alternative.

Impacts on Timber Harvest

There would be no impact on timber harvest from nondesignation of the WSA as wilderness.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

There is no motorized recreation use on the WSA now, and none is predicted for the future under any alternative.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

GOLDBURG

PROPOSED ACTION/NO WILDERNESS

The proposed action is to recommend the 3,290 acres in the WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Timber harvest, including falling, yarding, and hauling would be allowed under the proposed action. The wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and primitive and unconfined recreation would be lost on 930 acres of commercial forest land.

Conclusion

Wilderness values would be lost on 930 acres.

Impacts on the North Lemhi Roadless Area

The commercial timber sales projected in the WSA under the proposed action would result in sounds that could carry as much as two miles into the adjacent roadless area. The sounds would be present only during the actual logging operations and would not be significant. The logged area would not be visible from the roadless area; so there would be no visual impact on the Forest Service lands.

Conclusion

Management of the WSA as nonwilderness would have no significant impact on the North Lemhi roadless area.

Impacts on Anadromous Fishery Resources of the Salmon River Basin

The area of potential surface disturbance from timber harvesting is several miles from Goldburg Creek; only intermittent drainages are involved, and forest practices are designed to minimize runoff/erosion potentials; therefore, no impact on water quality is anticipated, and, as a result, no impact on anadromous fisheries is predicted.

Conclusion

No impact on anadromous fisheries is anticipated.

Impacts on Antelope Habitat

Antelope use the western edges of Sections 21, 28, and 33 (T.13N., R.24E., B.M.) as summer range. No actions are planned or projected to occur in this area; so no impacts to antelope habitat are anticipated.

Conclusion

No impacts to antelope habitat are anticipated.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Motorized recreation would be allowed under this alternative, but is not known to occur in the WSA.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to motorized recreation.

Impacts on Forest Product Sales

Timber harvest could occur on the 930 acres of commercial forest land suitable for management. Sales of firewood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees could also occur.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to forest product sales.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

The all wilderness alternative would recommend the WSA's 3,290 acres as suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation, would be maintained on the entire WSA, including the 930 acres of commercial forest land.

Conclusion

Wilderness values would be maintained on the WSA.

Impacts on the North Lemhi Roadless Area

Because the WSA is quite small in relation to the adjacent roadless area, designation of the WSA as wilderness would have no impact on the wilderness values of the roadless area.

Conclusion

Management of the WSA as wilderness would not affect the North Lemhi roadless area.

Impacts on Anadromous Fishery Resources in the Salmon River Basin

No surface disturbing activities would occur; so there would be no impacts to water quality and no impacts to anadromous fishery resources.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to anadromous fisheries

Impacts on Antelope Habitat

Antelope use the western edges of Sections 21, 28, and 33 (T.13N., R.24E., B.M.) as summer range. No actions are planned or projected to occur in this area; so no impacts on antelope habitat are anticipated.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to antelope.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

The area would be closed to motorized recreational uses. Since no use is known to occur, there would be no impact.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to motorized recreation.

Impacts on Forest Product Sales

No commercial timber sales, firewood permits, post and poles sales, or Christmas tree sales would be authorized. Potential timber sales of 124 MBF per year would not be allowed.

Conclusion

Forest product sales would not be allowed.

BOULDER CREEK

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to recommend the 1,930 acres in the WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

No actions of any kind which could alter the existing environment or wilderness values are projected; so no impacts would occur.

Conclusion

There would be no impacts on wilderness values.

Impacts on the Boulder-White Clouds Roadless Area

No actions that would change the existing environment would take place under the proposed action; therefore, there would be no effect on the adjacent Forest Service lands.

Conclusion

This alternative would have no impact on the roadless area.

Impacts on the Anadromous Fishery of Big and Little Boulder Creeks and the East Fork of the Salmon River

No surface-disturbing activities are projected. Other uses (grazing, recreation) are projected to continue as at present. No water quality or fishery problems arising from actions in the WSA have been identified; therefore, no impacts to the water quality or fisheries of Big and Little Boulder Creeks or the East Fork are anticipated.

Conclusion

There would be no impacts to fisheries.

Impact on Motorized Recreation

Motorized recreation use (ORVs) would be allowed but are limited by topography to existing trails. Use is expected to continue at present levels of 20 visitor days per year; so no impacts would occur.

Conclusion

There would be no impacts to motorized recreation.

Impacts on Energy Development

The area would remain open to energy development. There would be no impact.

Impacts on Mineral Development

The area would remain open to mineral development. There would be no impact.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

No change is expected in level of livestock use or in range improvement projects. There would be no impact to livestock grazing and range management.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

The all wilderness alternative is to recommend the WSA's 1,930 acres as suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Wilderness values would be preserved by protective management mandated by wilderness legislation.

There would be no impact to wilderness values.

Impacts on the Boulder-White Cloud Roadless Area

The adjacent roadless area lands are not recommended for wilderness designation. The management prescription for the adjacent lands is for roadless nonwilderness uses. Wilderness management of the WSA with no activity projected should have no impact on the roadless area.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on the roadless area.

Impacts on the Anadromous Fisheries of Big and Little Boulder Creeks and the East Fork of the Salmon River

Wilderness designation would close the area to ORV use and other surface disturbing activities. If these activities were known or projected to be causing water quality problems, then a positive impact could be expected. However, since no measurable water quality impacts are now occurring, no impacts due to wilderness designation can be predicted for water quality or fisheries.

Conclusion

There would be no impacts to fisheries.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Twenty visitor days of motorized recreation use (motorcycle) would be displaced annually. Since this use is by people traveling through the BLM lands to specific areas in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA), it would either be displaced to the SNRA's Big Boulder Creek trailhead or be foregone.

Conclusion

There would be displacement or loss of 20 motorized recreation user days annually.

Impacts on Energy Development

The lands in the WSA would be closed to energy development, subject to valid existing rights. Since there is a low potential for oil and gas in the area, the closure to development is not a significant impact.

Conclusion

There would be no significant impact to energy development.

Impacts on Mineral Development

The lands in the WSA would be closed to mineral development, subject to valid existing rights. Since there are no known locatable minerals in the area, the closure to development is not a significant impact.

Conclusion

There would be no significant impact to mineral development.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock grazing would continue at the present level (288 AUMs). No new range management projects are planned. Wilderness management policy allows for maintenance of the two existing pipelines, with motorized vehicles, if necessary. Therefore, livestock grazing and range management would be unaffected by this alternative.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to livestock grazing or range management.

BORAH PEAK

PROPOSED ACTION/ALL WILDERNESS

The proposed action is to recommend for designation as wilderness all 3,100 acres in the WSA plus an additional 780 acres.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Wilderness management would protect the wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and primitive unconfined recreation on 3,880 acres.

Conclusion

Wilderness values would be preserved on 3,880 acres.

Impacts on the Borah Peak Roadless Area

The use of the powerline on the west edge of the WSA would provide a clear boundary for a combined BLM/Forest Service wilderness. The actual impact of adding the BLM acreage to the Forest Service's roadless area would be insignificant due to the large size of the Borah Peak roadless area relative to the Borah Peak WSA. The BLM area does not contain any unique lands or features that would add significantly to the Forest Service area's value as a wilderness. Designation of the Borah Peak WSA and additional acreage would slightly enhance the opportunity for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation and increase the size of the proposed wilderness area approximately 3.3 percent.

Conclusion

This alternative would very slightly enhance the Borah Peak roadless area.

Impacts on Deer and Antelope Winter Range

No actions are planned or projected in the WSA or the additional 780 acres; so no impacts to deer and antelope winter range are predicted.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to deer and antelope winter range.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Ten visitor days of use would be displaced annually. If the use is tied to this area rather than random, the users would likely move to the nearby Cedar Creek and Sawmill Canyon roads.

Conclusion

Ten visitor days of ORV use would be displaced annually.

Impacts on Energy Development

The WSA and the additional 780 acres would be withdrawn from mineral entry, and no related development could occur. No energy resources have been identified in the area.

Conclusion

The opportunity to explore for and develop energy resources would be lost on 3,880 acres.

Impacts on Mineral Resource Development

The WSA and the additional 780 acres would be withdrawn from mineral entry, and no mineral development could occur. No mineral resources have been identified in the area.

Conclusion

The opportunity to explore for and develop mineral resources would be lost on 3,880 acres.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use would continue at present levels. No additional range management projects are proposed, and wilderness management policy allows for maintenance of necessary existing projects (pasture division fence and buried water pipeline). So no impacts to livestock grazing or range management are expected.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to livestock grazing or range management.

Impacts on Timber Harvest

No timber harvest would be allowed. The opportunity to harvest an estimated 14 MBF annually would be lost. However, this is a low priority area for timber harvest; so the impact is not significant.

Conclusion

Timber harvest opportunity would be lost.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

The All Wilderness alternative would recommend all 3,100 acres of the WSA as suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Wilderness management would protect the wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and primitive unconfined recreation on 3,100 acres.

Conclusion

Wilderness values would be preserved on 3,100 acres.

Impacts on the Borah Peak Roadless Area

The use of the powerline on the west edge of the WSA would provide a clear boundary for a combined BLM/Forest Service wilderness. The actual impact of adding the WSA to the Forest Service's Borah Peak roadless area would be insignificant due to the large size of the Forest Service area relative to the WSA. The WSA does not contain any unique lands or features that would add significantly to the Forest Service area's value as wilderness. Designation of the Borah Peak WSA would increase the size of the proposed wilderness area approximately 2.6 per cent.

Conclusion

This alternative would very slightly enhance the Borah Peak roadless area.

Impacts on Deer and Antelope Winter Range

No actions are planned or projected in the WSA; so no impacts to deer and antelope winter range are predicted.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to deer and antelope winter range.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Ten visitor days of use would be displaced annually. If this use is tied to this area, rather than random, the users would likely move to the nearby Cedar Creek and Sawmill Canyon roads.

Conclusion

Ten visitor days of ORV use would be displaced annually.

Impacts on Energy Development

The WSA would be withdrawn from mineral entry, and no related development could occur. No energy resources have been identified in the area.

Conclusion

The opportunity to explore for and develop energy resources would be lost on 3,100 acres.

Impacts on Mineral Resource Development

The WSA would be withdrawn from mineral entry, and no mineral development could occur. No mineral resources have been identified in the area.

Conclusion

The opportunity to explore for and develop mineral resources would be lost on 3,100 acres.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use would continue at present levels. No additional range management projects are proposed, and wilderness management policy allows for maintenance of necessary existing projects (pasture division fence and buried water pipeline). So no impacts to livestock grazing or range management are expected.

Conclusion

There would be no significant impact to livestock grazing and range management.

Impacts on Timber Harvest

No timber harvest would be allowed. The opportunity to harvest an estimated 14 MBF annually would be lost. However, this is a low priority area for timber sales; so the loss of the opportunity is not significant.

Conclusion

Timber harvest opportunity would be lost.

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

This alternative is to recommend the 3,100 acres of the WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and primitive and unconfined recreation could be lost on 97 acres due to commercial timber sales. These sales would involve construction of one mile of road and surface disturbance on the 97 acres. However, commercial timber sales are unlikely in the WSA because it is a low priority area for such sales, based on the quantity and quality of the timber. No sales are projected, and no impacts are expected.

Conclusion

Wilderness values are expected to remain unchanged in the WSA.

Impacts on the Borah Peak Roadless Area

Failure to designate the WSA as wilderness would not have any effect on the Borah Peak roadless area.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to the Borah Peak roadless area.

Impacts on Deer and Antelope Winter Range

No actions are planned or projected to occur in the winter range portion of the WSA; so, no impacts to deer and antelope winter range would occur.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to winter range.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Motorized use would be allowed as at present. An estimated ten visitor days of use would occur.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to motorized recreation use.

Impacts on Energy Resource Development

The area would be open to energy development; however, no such development is expected.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to energy development.

Impacts on Mineral Resource Development

The area would be open to mineral resource development; however, no such development is expected.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to mineral development.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock grazing would continue at 280 AUMs on the Whiskey Springs Allotment. Range management projects would continue to be used and maintained as they are now.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to livestock grazing or range management.

Impacts on Timber Harvest

The 97 acres of commercial forest land would be available for timber harvest of an estimated 14 MBF per year.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to timber harvest.

LITTLE WOOD RIVER

PROPOSED ACTION/ALL WILDERNESS

The proposed action is to recommend the entire 4,265 acres of the Little Wood River WSA as suitable for wilderness designation. The area would also continue to be managed as an ACEC for the long term protection of crucial elk winter range.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All 4,265 acres of the Little Wood River WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. All wilderness values would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

Wilderness designation and management would maintain the area's apparent naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Special features including crucial elk winter range (see below) and year-round populations of mule deer, blue grouse, and sage grouse would be maintained in the long term.

Conclusion

All wilderness values would receive long term Congressional protection. Wilderness values would be maintained on all 4,265 acres of the Little Wood River WSA. Special features would be maintained.

Impacts on Pioneer Mountains Roadless Area

Public lands in the Little Wood River WSA are a logical topographic extension of Forest Service lands in that part of the Pioneer Mountains roadless area recommended suitable for wilderness designation. The pack trail crossing the WSA in the Little Wood drainage connects with the trail system in the Pioneer Mountains area. The vehicle route providing access to the southern boundary of the Little Wood WSA would provide access to a suitable trailhead into the designated wilderness area.

Two miles of the Little Wood River Trail and three quarters of a mile of the Buck Creek Trail, both of which lead to the Pioneer Mountains, would remain in a natural-appearing state.

Managing the Little Wood River WSA as wilderness and ACEC would protect the wilderness values of the roadless area by insuring that no actions would take place in the WSA that would intrude upon them.

Conclusion

Wilderness designation of the Little Wood River WSA would help protect and enhance the wilderness values of a contiguous U.S. Forest Service Pioneer Mountains Wilderness Area.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

The Little Wood River WSA would remain closed to recreational ORV use. There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

Impacts on elk crucial winter range

The crucial winter range of the 400 elk that summer in the Pioneer Mountains would be protected. The year-round habitat needs of the elk would be met, and the herd would be maintained in the long term.

Conclusion

The elk crucial winter range would be protected and maintained

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

The No Wilderness Alternative would recommend the entire 4,265 acres of the Little Wood River WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. The area would continue to be managed as an ACEC for the long-term protection of elk crucial winter range.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Because no surface-disturbing actions are anticipated or predicted in the WSA, and the area would continue to be managed as an ACEC, the area's naturalness and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation would be maintained. The special features of elk crucial winter range (see below) and year-round populations of mule deer, blue grouse, and sage grouse would be maintained.

Conclusion

Management of the area as an ACEC for elk crucial winter range would maintain the WSA's naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation and special features.

Impacts on Pioneer Mountain Roadless Area

The entire Little Wood River WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation. Although the area would not have the legislative protection provided by wilderness designation, it would continue to be administratively managed as an ACEC for elk crucial winter range. No surface-disturbing actions are predicted to occur in the WSA; so no adverse impacts on the wilderness values of the adjacent roadless area are anticipated.

The crucial winter range essential for the long term survival of the 400 elk that summer in the Pioneer Mountains would be protected. The year-round habitat needs of the elk would be met and the herd would be maintained in the long term.

Conclusion

The wilderness values of the proposed Pioneer Mountain Wilderness would not be affected.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

The Little Wood River WSA would remain closed to recreational ORV use. There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

Impacts on elk crucial winter range

The area would be managed as an ACEC for the protection of elk crucial winter range. Management actions that would adversely affect the winter range would not be allowed. The elk crucial winter range, therefore, would be protected under this alternative.

Conclusion

There would be no adverse impact to elk winter range under the no wilderness alternative. The elk herd would continue to be maintained.

BLACK BUTTE

PROPOSED ACTION/NO WILDERNESS

The proposed action is to recommend the entire 4,068 acres of the Black Butte WSA as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Within the WSA boundary, removal of veneer lava would continue on the 510 acres of the claims determined in 1981 to be valid. Including the operations approved in 1986, mining activity would expand to an estimated 1,000 additional acres. The network of primitive roads providing access to lava extraction areas would expand. An estimated total of over 1,500 acres would be disturbed by mining and primitive roads. The surface disturbance would occur primarily in the central part of the WSA on and around Black Butte crater. Disturbed areas would be distinguished by the reddish colored surface exposed after removal of the dark brown or black veneer lava. The disturbance would be obvious and the area's apparent naturalness would be lost on all disturbed areas. Vehicles and equipment working in the area would reduce opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Reclamation would not return the disturbed areas to a natural appearance.

Because of the reduction in naturalness, the values of Black Butte for geologic studies would be reduced.

Conclusion

All wilderness values would be lost on over 1,500 acres disturbed by extraction of veneer lava. Apparent naturalness would be lost in approximately 37 percent of the WSA. The surface disturbance would be visible and obvious in the majority of the WSA. Because of the reduction in naturalness, the values of Black Butte for geologic studies would be reduced.

Impacts on Lava Mining

All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral entry. All locatable lava rock would be available for location of mining claims.

Conclusion

Lava rock would be available for development. There would be no impact on mining the Black Butte veneer lava rock.

Impact on Motorized Recreation

The entire area would be open to ORV use. There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on motorized recreation.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

The All Wilderness Alternative would recommend the entire 4,068 acres of the Black Butte WSA as suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All 4,068 acres of the Black Butte WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Some wilderness values would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

Within the WSA, the extraction of veneer lava would continue on the 510 acres covered by valid mining claims. Validity exams would be conducted on all other existing claims. Mining would be authorized on all valid claims. Additional primitive roads accessing lava extraction areas would be created within the area of the valid claims. Disturbed areas would be distinguished by the reddish colored surface exposed after removal of the dark brown or black veneer lava. The contrasts would be obvious and apparent naturalness would be lost on all disturbed areas. Vehicles and equipment working in the area would reduce opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

The area disturbed by mining would be obvious to visitors and could not be reclaimed. Because of the lack of naturalness, the portion of the WSA disturbed by mining could not be managed as wilderness.

Conclusion

Extraction of veneer lava would continue on the 510 acres now covered by valid mining claims, and all other claims determined to be valid. All wilderness values would be lost in the areas of surface disturbance. The disturbed areas could not be reclaimed.

Impacts on Lava Mining

Within the WSA, extraction of veneer lava would continue on the 510 acres covered by valid mining claims and on up to 1,000 additional acres, depending on the outcome of validity examinations. After designation, other areas of veneer lava within the wilderness area would not be available for location of mining claims and development.

Conclusion

There would be no impact on extraction of lava on the 510 acres of valid mining claims or on existing claims later found to be valid. Additional areas of veneer lava would not be available for development.

Impact on Motorized Recreation

The entire WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. The closure would eliminate less than 75 visitor days of recreational ORV use annually.

Public land that offers similar or superior opportunities for recreational ORV use is located throughout the region. Therefore, recreational use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public land.

Conclusion

Recreational ORV use of less than 75 visitor days would be displaced annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Development of the plan amendments assessed in this EIS has included consultation and coordination with other Federal agencies; State elected officials and departmental representatives. The decision to prepare the plan amendments and EIS to consider the suitability of the nine wilderness study areas (WSAs) for wilderness designation was announced in the Federal Register and in a mailing to news media and identified interested parties. Public response to this mailing was analyzed, and proposed planning criteria were developed. The proposed criteria were mailed to identified interested parties (approximately 650 in number). The public response to the proposed criteria was analyzed. Issues to be addressed in the EIS were defined and alternative actions to be analyzed were described.

Consultation has been conducted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on threatened and endangered species. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer has been carried out to determine whether the alternatives described might have an effect on any historic sites eligible for the National Register. The U.S. Geologic Survey and Bureau of Mines will inventory the WSAs that BLM recommends as suitable for wilderness designation. These inventories are expected to be done after BLM completes the final EIS for these nine WSAs and before Congress acts on the recommendation.

List of Preparers

A list of the persons responsible for preparing this EIS is provided in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1
List of Preparers

Name	Responsibility	Qualifications
Gary Wyke	Project Manager; overall coordination; quality control	BS Degree Forestry; MS Degree Wildland Resource Science; 14 years BLM
Fred Minckler	Coordination, authorship of Box Creek material	BS Degree Fisheries; BS Degree Wildlife; 4 years NMFS; 11 years BLM
Bill Boggs	Coordination, authorship of Lower Salmon Falls Creek material	BS Degree Environmental Resources; 5 years USFS; 9 years BLM

John Butz	Coordination, authorship of Henry's Lake and Worm Creek material	BS Degree Forest Recreation Management; one year graduate study Environmental Science; 12 years BLM
Dave Wolf	Coordination, authorship of Goldburg, Boulder Creek, and Borah Peak material in draft EIS	BS Degree Recreation; BS Degree Wildlife; 13 years BLM
Jeff Jarvis	Coordination, authorship of Little Wood River and Black Butte material	BS Degree Natural Resources; 2 years National Park Service; 10 years BLM
Laurie Guntly	Maps	2 years cartographer with U.S. Forest Service; 11 years cartographer with BLM
Peter Sozzi	Coordination, authorship of Goldburg, Boulder Creek, and Borah Peak material in Final EIS	BS Degree Natural Resource Mgmt.; 7 years National Park Service; 11 years BLM

Mailing List

A list of those to whom the draft EIS was sent is provided below.

Agencies, Organizations, Individuals to whom
the draft EIS was sent

Federal

USDA Soil Conservation Service
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Regional Director, FAA
 USDA, Coordinator, Environmental Quality Activities
 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 U.S. Geological Survey
 U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA
 Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
 Regional Environmental Officer, Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Mines, Western Field Operations Center
 Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region
 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Hall Agency
 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chief, Environmental Services
 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland Area Office
 Office of Hydropower Licensing
 Department of the Air Force
 U.S. Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration
 National Park Service, Division of Environmental Compliance
 Mountain Home Air Force Base

Supervisor, Caribou National Forest
Supervisor, Boise National Forest
Supervisor, Payette National Forest
Supervisor, Clearwater National Forest
Supervisor, Salmon National Forest
Supervisor, Challis National Forest
Supervisor, Targhee National Forest
Senator James McClure
Senator Steven D. Symms
Congressman Larry Craig
Congressman Richard Stallings

State

State Historic Preservation Officer
State Library
Department of Transportation
Department of Fish and Game
Custer County Extension Agent
Air National Guard
Department of Lands
Cooperative Extension Service, University of Idaho
Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Environment
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources
Deputy Attorney General, Chief, Natural Resources Division
Office of the Governor
University of Idaho Library
Office of Energy
Department of Agriculture
Outfitters and Guides Board
Secretary of State
Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Senator James Risch
Senator Gail Bray
Senator Vearl Crystal
Senator Roger Fairchild
Representative Wayne Tibbitts
Representative Ray Infanger
Representative Joan Wood
Representative Eugene B. Stucki
Representative Pete Black

Indian Tribes and Local Government

Salmon Public Library
Mayor of Challis
Mayor of Mackay
Custer County Commission
Custer County Planning Commission
Valley County Commission
Twin Falls County Commission

Twin Falls County Planning and Zoning Commission
Mayor of Soda Springs
Fort Hall Tribal Council
Idaho Association of Counties
Association of Idaho Cities
Bear Lake County Commission
Owyhee County Farm Bureau
Boise Public Library
Jerome County Planning & Zoning
The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Business and Industry

Shell Oil Company
Sohio Petroleum Company
Stacy Ranch, Inc.
Power Engineers
Atlantic Richfield Company
Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association
Reno Ranches
San Felipe Land and Livestock Company
Ronan, Inc.
Earth Search, Inc.
Minatome Corporation
Minerals Exploration Coalition
Pence Ranches, Inc.
Texaco, Inc.
Idaho Statesman
Lawson Creek Ranch, Inc.
Chevron, U.S.A.
Phillips Oil Company
Meridian Land and Mineral Company
Idaho Power Company
Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States
J & R Livestock Company
J - P Ranch, Inc.
Homestake Mining Company
KSRA Radio
The Post Register
Union Oil Company
Environmental Management Services Company
Exxon Company, U.S.A.
Cyprus Thompson Creek Mining Company
J.R. Simplot Company
Amoco Production Company
Arco Exploration
Aslett Ranches
The Challis Messenger
Recorder - Herald
Snowmobile West Magazine
Monsanto Corporation
Idaho Association of Commerce and Industries
Idaho Division of Tourism and Industrial Development

Idaho Mining Association
 A.M. Petrofina Company
 Amax Exploration, Inc.
 Axinoil, U.S.A.
 Camerina Oil Company
 Idaho Water Users Association
 Watt Ranches, Inc.
 Natural Gas Corporation of California
 Owyhee Cattlemen's Association
 Kerr McGee Corporation
 Southern California Edison Company
 Cascadia Exploration Corporation
 Boise Cascade Forestry Department
 Energy Fuels Corporation
 Occidental Geothermal, Inc.
 Glenn's Ferry Grazing Association
 Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association
 The Idaho Citizen
 Asarco, Inc.
 Magma U.S., Inc.
 Brown's Industries, Inc.
 Pacific Power and Light
 "71" Livestock Association
 Deasy Logging
 Wayne Claar Logging
 Gary Peterson Logging Company
 Jack Larrabee Logging Company
 Robinson Logging Company
 Bolero Mines
 Delamar Silver Mines
 Munde Mines
 Silver Scott Mines
 Danner Mines, Inc.
 William Bowes Mining Company, Inc.
 Gold Field Mining Corporation
 Western Nuclear, Inc.
 Mobile Oil Corporation
 Idaho Petroleum Council
 Evergreen Forest Products, Inc.
 Rocky Mountain Energy
 Idaho Pacific Timber Company
 Pressure Treated Timber Company
 Tri-County Cattleman's Association
 Coastal Mining Company
 Conoco, Inc.
 Croff Oil Company
 Distinctive Lava Stone
 Freeport Exploration Company
 Idaho Cattle Feeder's Association, Inc.
 Idaho Cattle Association
 Idaho Woolgrower's Association
 Lemhi Cattle & Horse Association

Intermountain Gas Company
Mountain Bell
Pioneer Production Company
Queen Bess Mine
Silver Strike Mining Company
Tenneco Minerals
Triumph Mineral Company, Inc.
Utah Power and Light

Organizations

Sierra Club
United 4-Wheel Drive Association
Motorized Recreation Vehicle Coalition, Inc.
Rocky Mountain Natural Heritage
National Wildlife Federation
Nature Conservancy
American Horse Protective Association
Idaho Wildlife Federation
The Wilderness Society
Idaho Archaeological Society, Inc.
Idaho Environmental Council
Wilderness Studies Institute, University of Montana
Challis Snowmobile Club
Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Natural Resources Defense Council
Idaho Natural Heritage Program
Idaho Conservation League
The Sportsmen's Club
ORMV Advisory Committee
Southeast Idaho Rod & Gun Club
Southeast Idaho Snowmobile Association
Friends of the Earth
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Idaho Natural Resources Legal Foundation
Idaho Falls Trail Machine Association
Idaho Motorcycle Club
Idaho Sportsmen's Coalition
Alpine Club
American Wilderness Alliance
Audubon Society
Blackfoot Motorcycle Club
Bonneville Sportsmen's Association
Earth First
Boondocker's 4-Wheel Drive Club
Idaho Trail Machine Association
Magic Valley Snowmobile Club
Treasure Valley Rock and Gem Club
Southwest Idaho Desert Racing Association
Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society
Idaho Gem Club
Magic Valley Gem Club
Desert Rats of Idaho, Inc.

Northwest Resources Information Center, Inc.
Wildlife Management Institute
National Public Lands Task Force
Gem County Rock and Mineral Society
Elmore Motorcycle Association
Gooding County Motorcycle Association
Desert Raiders Motorcycle Club
Gem Motorcycle Club
Northwest Rams Motorcycle Club
Idaho Outdoor Association
National Council of Public Land Users
The Good Sam Club
Desert Bighorn Sheep Council
The Wildlife Society
Treasure Valley Trail Machine Association
Idaho Trails Council
Ducks Unlimited
Idaho Whitewater Association
League of Women Voters
Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association
Ada County Fish and Game League
American Fisheries Society
American Motorcyclist Association
Carey Valley Rod and Gun Club
Defenders of Wildlife
Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee
Magic Valley Trail Machine Association, Inc.
Minidoka Sportsmen Club
Montana Wilderness Association
North Side Snow Riders
Pocatello Trail Machine Association, Inc.
Public Lands Council
Sawtooth Snowmobile Club
Scenic Lands Foundation
Wood River Gem & Mineral Society
Idaho Public Land Users Association

Individuals

The EIS is also being sent to approximately 400 individuals.

Public Comment on the Draft

The draft EIS was circulated to the public and filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on January 20, 1988. A 90-day period for review and comment was provided, ending April 28, 1988.

Twenty-seven letters, commenting on the draft EIS, were received. All of these letters are reproduced in this final EIS, beginning immediately after the BLM's response to comments.

Three public hearings were held. The purpose of the hearings was to receive public comments on the suitability of the nine wilderness study areas (WSAs) to be designated and managed as wilderness and to receive comment on the adequacy

of the draft EIS. The hearings were in Challis, Idaho, on February 22; Idaho Falls, Idaho, on February 23; and Boise, Idaho, on February 24, 1988. Two individuals testified at the hearing in Challis, two testified in Idaho Falls, and twelve testified in Boise. The transcripts of these three hearings are reproduced in this final EIS, immediately after the comment letters.

All letters and testimony are considered in making the recommendation to the Secretary of Interior on the suitability or unsuitability of each WSA to be designated as wilderness. Those comments that provide new information, point out mistakes in the draft, question the accuracy of data or conclusions in the draft, or otherwise challenge the adequacy of the draft EIS are responded to in this final EIS. These responses are assigned identifying numbers that correspond to the numbers marked on the letters or hearing transcripts.

The following individuals or agencies wrote letters commenting on the draft EIS. (An asterisk indicates a letter for which response is provided.)

1. R.B. Anderson *
2. Mrs. Ellen Trueblood
3. Bernice Walker
4. Vernon Heidenreich
5. Emily S. Appleton
6. Dennis Baird *
7. Martin McGregor
8. Everett Lasher
9. Ellen R. Glaccury
10. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
11. State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare *
12. Jane Leeson, The Wilderness Society
13. Rich Bloom
14. Nancy Fitz Bloom
15. Harold C. Miles, Golden Eagle Audubon Society
16. Dooley P. Wheeler, Jr., Umont Mining, Inc. *
17. Idaho State Historical Society, Thomas J. Green, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
18. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland *
19. John R. Swanson *
20. Richard Spotts
21. Stanley R. Albee *
22. David Mabe, Idaho Petroleum Council
23. Wiley F. Smith *
24. Susan Wood-Ray and Paul Rank, Wood River I.C.L. *
25. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 *
26. Stanley F. Boyd, Idaho Wool Growers Association
27. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

Response to Comments

Response to Letters

- 1.1 We could find no reference to cattle grazing on page 72. The reference to "cattle grazing" on page 42 has been changed to "livestock grazing."

1.2 The Little Wood River WSA is already closed to motor vehicles. (See Chapter three for Little Wood River, under the heading "Motorized Recreation".) There are no management actions projected for livestock and game management in the WSA under the No Wilderness Alternative. Designating the WSA as wilderness, then, would not further restrict the use of motor vehicles, nor would it restrict a present opportunity for livestock and game management.

6.1 The WSA does possess the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation. However, these values are diminished by the area's small size and narrow configuration. As pointed out on page 8 of the "Draft EIS for Small Wilderness Study Areas" the WSA's naturalness is somewhat diminished by the configuration (1/2 mile-wide canyon) and small size (3500 acres). The 1/2 mile-wide canyon also creates a narrow corridor of use which diminishes the quality of solitude for the area by increasing the potential for visitor interaction. In turn, the quality of unconfined recreation is also diminished by the small number of access routes, which tend to concentrate visitors in a narrow corridor of use. The WSA's marginal wilderness quality suggests the no wilderness recommendation.

11.1 Mitigating measures to reduce impacts on water quality in Box Creek resulting from timber harvest activities include selective cutting to minimize soil disturbance, rehabilitating (ripping, water barring, reseeding) and closing roads and skid trails following timber harvest, and excluding timber harvest activities within 100 feet of the riparian zone along Box Creek to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries and water quality. The Best Management Practices for silviculture referred to in your comment will be implemented, as appropriate. Mitigating measures to reduce water quality impacts from hydroelectric development include rehabilitating (reseeding) the area disturbed during penstock burial and designing and constructing the access road to minimize erosion.

No specific methodology was used to project the impacts on fisheries resources under the No Wilderness Alternative. However, based on the best available information, we project that a loss of fish production in Box Creek due to the unavoidable introduction of fine sediments from timber harvest and hydroelectric development would not exceed 10 percent over the long term.

16.1 Notice of the wilderness hearing in Challis was mailed on January 22, 1988, to 145 news media statewide, including wire services, daily and weekly newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. Another 115 copies of the notice went to resource interest agencies, groups, and organizations, including the Idaho Mining Association and the Idaho Petroleum Council. A news article describing the hearing - its purpose, date, time, and location - was published in the Challis Messenger on January 28, 1988.

16.2 The draft EIS, on page 2, explained that the plan amendments would be developed using the guidance published in the Federal Register on February 3, 1982, under the title, "Wilderness Study Policy; Policy, Criteria and Guidelines for Conducting Wilderness Studies on Public Lands. This guidance states, "Recommendations as to an area's suitability or unsuitability for wilderness designation will reflect a thorough consideration of any identified or potential energy and mineral resource values."

To date, identified or potential energy and mineral resource values have been reported in only three of the WSAs: Lower Salmon Falls Creek, Worm Creek, and Black Butte. The recommendation for each of these WSAs does reflect a thorough consideration of energy and mineral resource values. In addition, as explained on page 76 of the draft EIS, the U.S. Geologic Survey and Bureau of Mines will inventory the WSA, that BLM recommends suitable for Wilderness designation in order to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present in such areas.

17.1 The management plans that BLM prepares for designated wilderness areas will include the identification and management of historic properties, including nomination of eligible sites to the National Register.

18.1 The sights and sounds of personnel and equipment during timber harvest activities within the WSA would be noticeable to visitors within the adjacent U.S. Forest Service roadless area close to the WSA. This impact on the visitors would be minimal overall because of the low frequency of harvest activities within the WSA and because visitor use within the adjacent roadless area is projected to remain low over the long term. The adjacent roadless area would be managed as a semi-primitive motorized area and would allow salvage logging operations and motorized use. Timber harvest is projected to occur on the adjacent State of Idaho lands. These activities would also be noticeable to visitors within the adjacent roadless area and would occur regardless of wilderness designation for the Box Creek WSA. Visitors within the adjacent roadless area close to the WSA would be aware of all of these disturbances with only a portion attributed to the timber harvest activities within the WSA. Since the adjacent roadless area allows for motorized use and timber harvest, these activities would be acceptable to visitors within the roadless area and any additional activities of this nature occurring beyond the boundaries of the roadless area should not add substantially to visitors' awareness of these activities nor affect the ability of the area to be managed as a semi-primitive motorized area. Therefore, we have concluded that timber harvest activities within the WSA would have minimal impacts on visitors within the adjacent roadless area.

Timber harvest activities on the adjacent roadless area and State of Idaho lands would affect the wilderness values of solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation within the WSA. These wilderness values would be periodically reduced over the long term during the time when timber harvest activities are occurring. Because of the topographic features, vegetative screening and small size of the WSA, timber harvest activities on adjacent lands would be noticeable over most of the WSA. These impacts would occur regardless of wilderness designation for the WSA.

19.1 Each of the wilderness study areas (WSAs) addressed in the draft EIS has been identified through the BLM's wilderness inventory process, including public comment. The WSAs include all the acreage that meets the Wilderness Act's minimum definition of wilderness. The all wilderness alternative for each WSA in the draft EIS represents that maximum acreage in these WSAs that can reasonably be considered for wilderness management. You have offered no rationale for your suggested alternative. Therefore, we conclude that your suggested alternative is outside the range of reasonable alternatives appropriate to this EIS.

21.1 See response to letter number 6.1.

21.2 A wilderness designation does not, of itself, restrict livestock use more than existed prior to the area entering the wilderness system. Project development may be restricted by a wilderness designation. BLM manages approximately 12 million acres of public land in Idaho. Of these, approximately 1,102,000 acres, or about nine percent have been recommended as suitable for designation as wilderness. No BLM administered lands in Idaho have been designated as wilderness by Congress as of this writing.

23.1 According to the BLM Manual (8340.05) off-road vehicles (ORVs) are defined as:

off-road vehicle: any motor vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding:

- a. any non-amphibious motorboat;
- b. any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes;
- c. any vehicle whose use is authorized or otherwise officially approved;
- d. vehicles in official use; or
- e. any combat or combat-support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

Much of the use that is observed in the WSA is by vehicles whose use is authorized or officially approved and is not defined as use by ORVs. This non-ORV use can include, but is not limited to livestock operators, powerline inspectors, repairmen, and official use by various County, State and Federal agencies.

There may be more recreational ORV use in the area. It would take further on-site studies to determine the amount. Even if the estimates are off by a large percent, however, the use is still considered minimal.

23.2 Many areas that are being considered for inclusion into the wilderness preservation system have been grazed for decades. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act "grandfathers" these grazing uses in wilderness. The BLM can specify the timing of access and the route used by the permittee, but does not totally eliminate mechanized equipment from the area.

23.3 The BLM is attempting to acquire the State section (T.9N.R.22E.Sec. 36) by exchange. The west half of Sec. 25 however, is Forest Service land. It is our understanding that the current McClure-Andrus wilderness proposal may include that parcel in its Borah Peak Wilderness proposal.

23.4 The powerline boundary will be a challenge to manage properly. However, through proper patrolling, signing and monitoring, the unit can be managed as wilderness, especially since the powerline boundary is easily identified.

23.5 During the initial wilderness inventory, the Borah Peak WSA did meet the requirements of solitude and naturalness, and contain opportunities for primitive unconfined recreation. Many wilderness areas in the United States are visible from highways, with powerlines or other manmade features in view. One such area is the Sandia Wilderness in New Mexico which actually borders the city limits of Albuquerque.

24.1 The area does have the wilderness characteristic of solitude. However the small size and narrow configuration of the WSA increases the potential for visitor interaction, therefore diminishing the solitude quality. The variety of wildlife that live in the canyon are there due to the canyon's steepness, live stream, and vegetation as well as its solitude qualities.

25.1 The predicted effects of management actions on water quality and fisheries have been documented for those WSAs in which these resource values may be affected by actions contemplated in the proposed action or alternatives. These WSAs include Box Creek, Goldburg, and Boulder Creek.

25.2 The projected reduction (up to 10%) in fish populations in Box Creek due to timber harvest and hydroelectric development activities under the Proposed Action (no wilderness) is attributed solely to activities occurring on lands within the WSA. Projected impacts resulting from timber harvest and hydroelectric development activities on lands adjacent to the WSA are not quantified and are not combined with projected impacts resulting from management actions taken on lands within the WSA. Impacts from hydroelectric development would be nearly the same under either alternative since the only difference between the two alternatives regarding this project is that under the All Wilderness Alternative, approximately 3,000 feet of penstock would be rerouted approximately 1/8 mile and would be located on lands outside the adjacent to the southern boundary of the WSA. This minor relocation would allow the project to be developed with impacts nearly the same as those projected under the Proposed Action. All other impacts on adjacent lands from this project would be the same under both alternatives. Since the same timber harvest activities are projected to occur on lands adjacent to the WSA under both alternatives, impacts would be the same under both alternatives. The document has been revised to clarify that hydroelectric development and timber harvest on adjacent lands are projected to occur under both alternatives and that impacts resulting from these activities are projected to be the same under both alternatives.

No specific methodology was used to project the impacts on fisheries resources under the No Wilderness Alternative. However, based on the best available information, we project that a loss of fish production in Box Creek due to the unavoidable introduction of fine sediments from timber harvest and hydroelectric development would not exceed 10% over the long term.

Response to Hearings Testimony
Challis Hearing

(No response required)

Idaho Falls Hearing

IF 1.1 The rationale for disposing of the ten acres of WSA land not recommended for wilderness was dealt with in the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan (RMP) and final EIS. The land use decision is consistent with Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which outlines the general requirements for disposal of small tracts of public land. The decision was made contingent on the final wilderness decision by the U.S. Congress.

Since the disposal issue had been discussed and evaluated in the RMP it was not addressed in detail in the wilderness EIS.

Small tracts of land suitable for recreational development were identified for disposal because they could be used to acquire lands of equal or higher public values in other locations such as along the South Fork of the Snake River. Another reason for disposal of small irregular parcels that protrude into private land is that they tend to be encroached on, collect litter and invite unauthorized trespass. When and if the 10-acre tract is offered for sale or exchange, an environmental analysis and land report will be prepared and made available for public review and comment.

The amount of land identified in Idaho for negotiating in Idaho for negotiating ownership adjustments is listed in the various planning documents throughout the state. The question of which of those lands are best suited for the negotiations is considered at the time a sale or exchange proposal is made. This is because of the changing nature of market conditions, owner preferences and other influences. The Medicine Lodge RMP identified 8,249 acres of public land for ownership transfer.

IF 1.2 This important riparian zone was mentioned in the draft EIS on page 42.

Boise Hearing

B 2.1 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified the gray wolf as an endangered species that may occur within the WSA. In compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 we have identified what impacts the proposed action and alternatives could have on this species, should it occur within the WSA. The status of the gray wolf recovery plan does not affect these impact projections nor relieve us of the requirement to address them. The text references to the gray wolf are included and remain unchanged in this final EIS.

B 3.1 The potential management actions and scenarios identified under each alternative were developed for analytical purposes. They are not necessarily management plans or firm proposals, but we feel that they are reasonable activities that could occur in the future. Since the Box Creek WSA contains 295 acres of suitable commercial forest lands capable of sustaining long-term timber production, and an application for a permit for the hydroelectric project has been filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, we feel that timber harvest and hydroelectric development are reasonable activities that could occur in the future if wilderness designation does not occur. Economic analysis for hydroelectric development and timber harvest were not

included in this document since they are not usually prepared during this stage in the planning process. As management actions relating to these and other activities are developed, proposed and become ready for decision, an economic analyses would be prepared, as appropriate.

B 3.2 The Goldburg WSA was recommended nonsuitable for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. The area was determined to have no unique characteristics that are not represented by the 32,350 Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Montana.

While there are some small isolated riparian areas, no fishing values exist within the WSA. Grazing does increase sedimentation into Goldburg Creek, but grazing is a permitted activity within wilderness and is expected to continue whether the area is designated wilderness or not.

B 7.1 The nonsuitable recommendations for designation of wilderness for the WSA is for the area's marginal wilderness qualities, and not that it does not have solitude. The WSA in FY 87 had an estimated 3000 visitors within its boundary. This count was obtained through routine WSA monitoring and surveillance patrols. Idaho Fish and Game surveys, and BLM Recreation Use Surveys. On weekends in the spring and fall it was not uncommon to find concentrated fishing use in a 1/2 mile radius of the two main fishing access trails that lead into the canyon.

B 7.2 See response to B 7.1.

B 9.1 It is BLM policy that all fires will be controlled to prevent loss of human life or property within wilderness areas or to prevent the spread of fire to areas outside of the wilderness where life, resources, or property may be threatened.

Fire management in a wilderness area will be in conformance with an approved Fire Management Plan. Fire management actions will be specific to each wilderness area and will depend upon values at risk, resource management objectives, and other factors specific to each area. A wilderness designation does not necessarily increase or decrease the cost of fire suppression within the area.

B 9.2 As explained on page 76 of the draft EIS, the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines will conduct inventories to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present in wilderness study areas recommended suitable by BLM. These inventories will be conducted before the Secretary of Interior sends the recommendations through the President to Congress.

B 12.1 See response to Idaho Falls hearing, comment number IF 1.1

Page 2

1

Gary Wyke
Blm - Boise

1/25/88

1

I reviewed the draft statement for small wilderness study area. A few errors should be corrected. P 72 refer cattle grazing on what was sheep range for years with may be some cattle on it. It should heavy sheep use. 9.00
Your planners seem to be biased and not across the board resource managers but newly hired people of limited experience.

I find BLM ~~land~~ generally could all meet the wilderness law where it has not been plowed. Ten feet off the road shoulder & you are in wilderness. ^{The law doesn't call for buffer areas.} No mention was made of added management cost where acres & meters are prohibited. No mention was made of lost management opportunities for livestock & game management with classification. The area at Kras - Little Walker - is badly overgrazed with livestock and the recent increase in elk is not helping. Please quit appeasing conservation nuts and manage your lands for the good of all people. R. R. Anderson 305 E. Center, Shelby

RECEIVED

1988 FEB 17 AM 9:00

DLR 5100

719 8th Ave. S.
Nampa, ID 83651
Feb. 14, 1988

Mr. Gary L. Wyke
Project Manager
BLM State Office
3190 Americana Terrace
Boise, ID 83706

Dear Mr. Wyke:

I support the recommendation of Idaho's High Desert for its stand on Wilderness in Idaho. This includes Henry's Lake, Warm Creek, Borah Peak, Little Wood River, Box Creek, Lower Salmon Falls, Goldberg, Boulder Creek and Black Butte. I hope you will see fit to include these areas in the Idaho's wilderness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen Trueblood
Mrs. Ellen Trueblood

I see no good reasons
for any of these lands to
be added to Wilderness. 1988 FEB - 1 11 00
We are not short of wilderness
and all it does is increase
management costs. Time is
money. Wildlife can do
better on managed range
where you can manage
vegetation type & use, and
~~George when necessary.~~
These wild Elk do not
seem so wild when they
are feeding at the hay
stacks & following hay
wagons. Elk & deer do just
fine without isolation, hiding
& thermal cover, etc. The F&G
folks are 'not using sound
scientific facts & their PR shows
up in your document.

P. B. Borden

B. J. M. State Office
Boise, Idaho

9

RECEIVED

1938 FEB 17 AM 9:00

Dear Sirs:

After seeing the destruction caused to our public lands by stockmen, both cattlemen and sheepmen. Mores tearing up our land with dredges etc, the piles of slab etc. left by lumbermen, I feel that we should have as much wilderness area as possible, but will even that stop the destruction. I'm afraid our area, even wilderness, will be allowed to be destroyed by loggers and other ~~various~~ associations if requested by our present Administration. However I stand for complete wilderness and complete protection.

for our wildlife ^{management} therefore
 State for all new areas be
 declared wilderness without any
 exclusions

Thank you!

Bernice Walker

Route 1

Shoshone, Idaho

४३२५७

4 225 S Pond St
Boise ID 83705
Feb 19, 1988

Mr Gary Wyke

3380 Americana Terrace

Boise ID

Dear Sir

Re: Small Wilderness Study Areas.

Your letter with the above designation is at hand. In my opinion Idaho has far too much wilderness already. Surely we have intelligent land managers who can protect our forests and ranges without locking up a lot of land where no one gets any use from it, except watershed protection. Nor do I believe total protection is the best management system.

If we can somehow get control of the grazing, our range land will be well on the way to conservation, "wise use"

P.S. I don't believe I am a member of the Wilderness Society. I don't even know what "EIS" is. Vernon Herdenreich, US Soil Conservation Service, Retired

5

February 22, 1988

1988 FEB 25 AM 9:00

Mr. Gary Wyke, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Mr. Wyke,

My family and I are writing to you in regards to the McClure/Andrus Wilderness Agreement.

This package does not seem adequate in protecting Idaho's wilderness. The extraordinary fisheries, wildlife, hiking trails, backcountry recreation are an incomparable heritage to Idahoans and Americans alike.

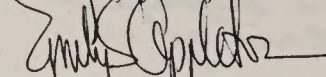
We decided to move to Idaho from Connecticut 8 years ago. One of the main reasons for bringing our family to this area was to experience how intertwined our lives are with nature and the importance of the fine balance there is between nature and man! Each time loggers come into an area, they make roads, disturb not only the wildlife, but the ecology of the streams. Every time this occurs, we lose a little more of our precious heritage.

I am told that more than 9,000,000 acres of national forest land in Idaho are eligible for wilderness designation. There are so many areas that have been left out of the McClure/Andrus proposal that should be included. Boulder Creek, Henry's Lake, Box Creek (near McCall), and Lower Salmon Falls Creek are just a few among many that have not been included in your package. Not to protect all these wildlands with better legislation would be the biggest crime to generations to come.

My family and I object to the inadequate wilderness designations, the special management provisions, the mandated timber offering on the Panhandle forest, and the water rights language in the McClure/Andrus proposal.

WE SUPPORT A BETTER FUTURE FOR IDAHO'S WILDLANDS! Please listen to the Idaho Wildlands Defense Coalition, The Wilderness Society, and to all the concerned people who feel you must preserve this fabulous heritage. Idaho's future lies in its beauty not in its wildlands' desecration.

Sincerely yours,



Emily S. Appleton

RECEIVED
BLM-IDSC

6
P.O. Box 8787
Moscow, ID 83843
22 Feb. 1988

February 23, 1988
Salt Lake City, Utah

Gary Wyke
BLM
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, ID 83706

Dear Sir:

SMALL WILDERNESS AREAS

Thank you for sending me the draft EIS on BLM's Small Wilderness area program.

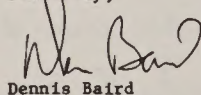
Many portions of your study seem soundly and fairly done. The Henry's Lake proposal is pretty well done, except that concerting part of the area into second homes for the wealthy seems to be a very dubious use of public land. Similarly I fully support your very fine proposals for small wilderness additions in the Little Wood River, Borah Peak and in Worm Creek. All these complement the initial USFS land use recommendations in the same areas.

6.1 In the EIS I cannot find any very good justification for not recommending wilderness for your segments on the lower Salmon River. I have been to this spot many times. It is lovely, natural appearing, and to me would make a fine wilderness.

Perhaps the worst proposal is that for Boulder Creek, which is contiguous to the White Clouds and is in fact included in several wilderness proposals for this region. While not large, its location is ecologically important to having a sound Boulder-White Clouds boundary. "Soundness", of course, is not a word that could be applied to the McClure-Andrus proposal for this area, but I trust that you will not let the BLM recommendations be guided by sleazy politics as you look at this area. It is time, perhaps, to ask what is best for the land.

I am also sad to see that you have left out Goldburg. It lies well inside the Northern Lemhis, a range that will not be treated well at all by the Salmon National Forest. No road building ought to be permitted in this area.

Sincerely,



Dennis Baird

Dear Manager(s):

This letter concerns the BLM WSA recommendations.

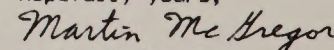
These comments are meant to enlighten and influence, not to harass or waste your time. A new principle seems to be emerging lately or maybe it always existed and I just didn't recognize it. It goes like this: Proposals advanced and supported by government, politicians, and developers are generally not in the best interests of the general public and the environment.

In defense of this observation I provide the following evidence. Presently, there is no critical shortage of lumber, petroleum, beef, (grazing), or electric energy. There is an impending shortage of wilderness and its related recreational and regenerative functions. We have a much better chance of finding additional resources such as lumber, energy sources, and food than we have of finding additional wilderness acreage. I have been in or near all of the 9 current study areas and hope that all of them will be recommended as wilderness. Particularly in cases where adjoining forest land is eligible for wilderness, the eligible BLM land should be included.

Western American author-historian Wallace Stegner wrote an article years ago in defense of wilderness preservation in which he developed a theme called the idea of wilderness. The article is rather long to include here but he encourages wilderness preservation as reserving a place to think about as well as a place to go; just knowing it's still there and still wild can be uplifting to the soul. He compares our wilderness to the remaining living example of what we conquered and exploited to build the country, a one-way bank account whose value is lost if we withdraw and spend the remainder of it.

I don't generally dislike politicians, developers, logs, and roads, it's just that the loss of wilderness is so irreversible and as long as we can make do without developing the remaining roadless areas I think they should be saved. Somehow an unfortunate attitude has developed that the only way this can be done is by wilderness designation and that this designation is some sort of a death knell. Maybe this is why we had the RARE studies. In any case I hope for the survival and eventual protection of the remaining eligible areas and that you will be generous in defining eligible.

Hopefully yours,


Martin McGregor
6261 Ben Air Drive
West Jordan, Utah 84084

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the long awaited Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Idaho's Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) smaller than 5,000 acres. Your letter may determine the fate of nine areas totaling nearly 21,000 acres. Please write the State BLM by April 28, 1988 to support Wilderness protection for these highly diverse wild areas, and please speak up for these wild lands at public hearings to be held in Challis, Idaho Falls, and Boise in February.

BACKGROUND

Conservationists must remember that the BLM wilderness process is on a separate track from the Forest Service wilderness study process. Current discussions of forest wilderness do not cover any of the nearly 12 million acres of BLM lands in Idaho.

In 1982 former Secretary of the Interior ~~James Watt~~ deleted all WSAs smaller than 5,000 acres from the wilderness study process. In 1985, national conservation groups were able to reverse that arbitrary decision in U.S. Circuit Court. Now, the BLM has announced its recommendation regarding Wilderness for these small roadless areas.

Four areas: Henry's Lake, Worm Creek, Borah Peak, and Little Wood River (totaling less than 7800 acres), are recommended for wilderness. Five areas: Box Creek, Lower Salmon Falls Creek, Goldburg, Boulder Creek, and Black Butte (totaling over 13,000 acres) are not recommended for wilderness.

Henry's Lake is located north of Henry's Lake on the edge of the conifer forest RARE II area that straddles the

continental divide with Montana. The BLM proposes wilderness protection for 340 acres of Henry's Lake but recommends disposing of ten acres through exchange. While conservationists accept the premise of exchanging lands the BLM has not established a strong case for using WSA lands for this purpose. The BLM has millions of acres but only a tiny percentage are Wilderness Study Areas. The BLM indicates the lands would most likely be used for recreational home sites (The greatest good for the fewest?) and no travel restrictions would apply to the disposed lands. The wilderness recommendation should be supported, for the EL does not adequately justify the reasons for dropping the southern ten acres.

Worm Creek lies adjacent to the Forest Service proposed Worm Creek Wilderness north west of Bear Lake. It is a 40 acre roadless area surrounded by two steep forest Service roadless areas. The unit is covered with forest or brushlands and provides habitat for large and small mammals and birds. A threat to the unit is the BLM recommendation should be strongly supported.

Borah Peak marks the western edge of the proposed Forest wilderness for Idaho's highest peak. Support this recommendation and feel good about the BLM. In addition to the 3,500 acres of the WSA, the BLM is recommending 710 acres outside the northern edge of the WSA for wilderness. This enlightened decision acknowledges ecosystems do no end at administrative boundaries. These small BLM lands are crucial winter range for up to 1,000 antelope and 400 mule deer. Very few conflicts exist; no mineral claims or leases are present; a few

grazing developments exist but do not detract from the wilderness character of the unit. How about an Idaho Centennial Celebration BLM WSA? Little Wood River has had strong support through the years from conservationists, lying as it does next to the Pioneer Mountains RARE II area. This 4,000 acre BLM unit is crucial winter range for up to 400 elk, mule deer, grouse, black bear, and trout are also present. This BLM unit makes up over half of the public lands within the Elk Mountain Crucial Elk Winter Range Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Motorized use of the area has been closed since 1982 and no conflicts exist with mining or current livestock grazing. Conservationists should endorse the BLM recommendation.

Box Creek is a 440 acre roadless area isolated along the western edge of the F.S. Secesh Roadless Area (formerly RARE II Lick Creek) which is de facto wilderness a mere ten miles northeast of McCall. The BLM does not recommend this unit for Wilderness. The unit is a steep, rugged forested area with a 1,000 foot of 26 inch steel pipe with in the WSA along with a road. Over half of the WSA would be subject to timber harvesting via new timber roads. Forest Service proposals for timber harvest in the adjacent forest would leave Box Creek isolated and unprotected.

What wild things does Box Creek possess? Steep rugged forested with old growth outcrops, rainfall, with forest, elk and trout and whitefish, elk, and mule deer, and possibly bald eagle. Box Creek is not for

from sight of the endangered Gray Wolf, listing the area as a wild voiced in Idaho a break. Conservationists should speak up for Box Creek BLM WSA as well as the adjacent Secesh Forest roadless area.

Lower Salmon Falls is not recommended for wilderness even though it is isolated by 600 feet of road and motorized travel would be difficult after the first snow. The BLM identified 3,000 acres from rim to rim WSA about the Committee for Idaho's High Desert is recommending a 25,000 acres wilderness that includes portions of the adjacent area. The BLM is not recommending it as a wilderness area. Although development is unlikely, Big-horn sheep might be reintroduced to the canyon if sufficient forage could be protected. Speak up now or lose it forever.

Goldburg lies near the head of the Pahsimeroi Valley adjacent to the North Lemhi Forest Service RARE II area. The BLM has written off Goldburg roadless area as the Forest Service wilderness. In Idaho this is a mistake. The BLM proposes to permit pushing a road into this area to harvest timber. ORV use is non-existent. Little potential exists for mineral development. Goldburg is heavily used by antelope as well as deer and elk. About one third of the WSA is timbered. Conservationists should speak up now for Goldburg and should plan to visit Goldburg and the North Lemhi and Goldburg as soon as possible in the event eloquence fails.

Boulder Creek is part of the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness Coalition proposal. This BLM area is under 200 acres, but it is a wilderness area precedent for the nearby much larger Henry's Lake and Corral Hollow Basin BLM WSAs.

Three lands along the East Fork of the Salmon River provide antelope and resident fisheries. The BLM is recommending off boundary areas for Black Butte.

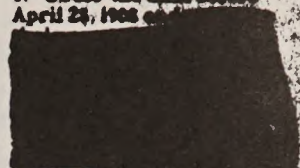
Time's just about up, folks. Speak up now or lose it. Black Butte was a pristine volcanic crater in 1982. Today it is a slabbed-out rock pile littered with industrial waste. James Watt may not be able to take credit for the destruction of Black Butte—outrageous U.S. mining law probably would have permitted this rape. The next time you admire the rock facade on a new house or a fireplac mantle, it would be good to know if it came from a wilderness study area. With each year that passes in Idaho wilderness areas are being destroyed. Conservationists must speak up now for the unique wilderness.

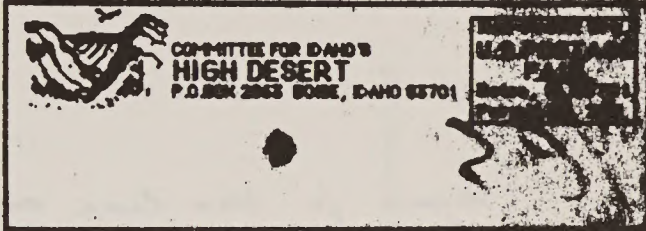
Few conservationists were aware that Black Butte was being mined even after the developers pushed in an illegal road from Highway 93. Typically, the BLM failed to prosecute the trespass. The tragedy lies in actions taken at the turn of the decade when the WSA was established. Different motor "way" might have created a WSA larger than 5,000 acres. Then, different regulations might have stayed the bulldozer and the crowbar.

Nesting raptors still use Black Butte. From the rim the mind still imagines boundaries which might have linked Black Butte with the Wood River below Magic Dam. Black Butte was a true wilderness a

more few hundred years a heavily wooded high way. It was a wilderness area in perpetuity. Black Butte.

ACTION

1. Write the BLM before April 28, 1988 at  Please include the following points from above plus any personal experience. Let the BLM know your opinion of the mining of Black Butte. Gary L. Wyke, Project Manager BLM State Office 3380 Americana Terrace Boise, ID 83706 Telephone 208/357-4326
2. Speak up at public hearings to be held at: Challis—conference room of the Salmon River Electric Cooperative, 7 PM, February 22, 1988. Idaho Falls—Public Library, 437 Broadway, 7 PM, February 23, 1988. Boise—Public Library, 715 South Capitol Blvd., 7 PM, February 24, 1988.
3. Remember Black Butte! No Idaho wildland is safe until it is protected as Wilderness. The tragic destruction of Black Butte, the impending carving of Sand Mountain, and many planned range development projects are a sobering reminder that conservationists must be vigilant.



8 11025 20th ST E
Puyallup WA 98372
24 Feb 1988

Gary Wyke, Project Mgr.
B.L.M.
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, ID 83706

EIS #8500

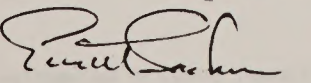
Dear Sir:

Some comments on some of the WSA's on your draft EIS.

Henry's Lake WSA ID-35-77 If the Forest Service creates the Lions Head wilderness, give the land to the FS. for inclusion.

Worm Creek WSA ID-37-77 Same comment as above. BLM areas too small for separate management by two agencies.

Borah Peak WSA ID-47-4. Proposal would create inholdings of 1/2 section of NF land and a section of state land. Some land swapping might be considered. Needs to be under a single authority if a wilderness is created. Does not add much to the wilderness area + cattle grazing doesn't seem appropriate with wilderness.

Very Truly yours

Everett Lashen

9
Box 1173
Ketchikan, Al 99901
Feb 27, 1988

Gary L. Wyke, Project Mgr.
BLM State Director
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83704

Dear Mr. Wyke:

The BLM recently sent me the EIS for the small wilderness study areas and I would like my comments included in the public record.

Firstly, I would like to express my extreme displeasure at the way the BLM handled the illegal destruction of Black Butte. If people are able to go in and illegally destroy an area with no more than a slap on the wrist as "punishment" what will prevent other areas being similarly raped? I would suggest that the BLM prosecute similar pilloage to the

4/ full extent of the law.

Another area I am quite familiar with is Lower Salmon Falls. As you know, this is a spectacular small canyon and ought to be protected, along with enough of the river area to keep the ecosystem intact. I think that the C.I.H.D. proposal of a 25,000 acre wilderness makes the most sense and should be the BLM's recommendation.

Another area very close to home and with which I'm very familiar is the Little Wood. I agree with your recommendation and commend and support it.

My husband and I have spent many fine days at a friend's cabin near Henry's Lake and feel that the BLM's proposal seems sensible in that area.

My children and I were over near Mt. Brach last summer looking at the earthquake fault line. This area is

truly a national treasure and I commend the BLM on its recommendation here.

However, your decision for Goldbuggy, in the same neck-of-the-woods, doesn't make a bit of sense to me. My friend tells me that this area is heavily used by deer, elk and antelope and is intriguing to primitive Forest Service lands which also should be given wilderness protection.

Some of us here in Blaine County have been speaking out for the White Clouds since the time Cecil Andrus was first elected governor and still neither the F.S. or the BLM has seen fit to protect any part of it.

You know that it's worthy of protection and the entire ecosystem should be considered to ensure wintering areas for large species as well as sediment-less streams for anadromous & resident fish. All of the lands

along the last fork of the Salmon River, the Coral Creek Basin as well as Boulder Creek should be given wilderness protection to ensure the logical preservation of the entire ecosystem. I strongly urge you to reconsider and to upgrade wilderness classification for this area which truly merits it.

My friend from McCall has told me about Boy Creek - that it's a magical spot which is heavily used by wildlife. I understand that the poor grey wolves which we're trying to encourage have been sighted nearby and, to my mind, this of itself should justify the protection of Boy Creek as a haven for harassed species. I recommend that you reconsider and preserve what is there.

And lastly I commend your

5/

decision for Warm Creek over near Bear Lake.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Allen R. Glaccum
(Mrs. Thomas W.)



IN REPLY
REFER TO: PN 150

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
BOX 043-550 WEST FORT STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83724-0043

MAR 9 1988

RECEIVED
7:07 PM
MAR 11 1988

Memorandum

To: Gary Wyke, Project Manager, Idaho State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 3380 Americana Terrace, Boise, Idaho 83706

From: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho

Subject: Review of Draft Proposed Plan Amendments and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Small Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) Statewide (Idaho)

The subject document has been provided for review to appropriate staff members in our Pacific Northwest Regional Office, the Upper Colorado Regional Office (Salt Lake City, Utah), and the Minidoka Project Office (Burley, Idaho). The following comments indicate the watersheds (WSA's) within the Minidoka Project area which contain portions of, or are adjacent to, the proposed wilderness sites. The likely effects on the watershed are described for each WSA.

Little Wood River WSA

This WSA includes 4,265 acres above Chicken Creek, along the Little Wood River. The WSA extends to about 6 miles above Little Wood River Reservoir. Access is limited by the rugged topography to foot and pack animal travel. No snow courses lie within the area. The EIS recommends the entire 4,265 acres for wilderness. Such a designation would not affect Bureau operations or responsibilities.

Black Butte WSA

This WSA includes 4,068 acres. The east border is formed by Highway 75. The Wood River and the Richfield and Lincoln Canals are East of the highway. The EIS recommends that the area not be considered suitable for wilderness, and there would, therefore, be no change in use.

Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA

The canyon from below Salmon Dam to above Lily Grade forms this 3,500-acre WSA. The steep canyon limits access. Potential hydropower sites are located above the reach and below Lily Grade. Irrigation return flows enter the creek below Lily Grade. This WSA also was not considered suitable for wilderness designation.

Henrys Lake WSA

This is a 350-acre parcel of Bureau of Land Management land bordered on three sides by Forest Service land proposed as wilderness. Three hundred forty acres are recommended to be included in the wilderness, and the remaining 10 acres are recommended for exchange and development as summer home sites. The land does not reach Henry's Lake. Wilderness designation would preserve the present characteristics of the watershed.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Kenneth R. Pottle

cc: Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.;
Attention: WO-150
Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City, Utah;
Attention: UC-150



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, STATEHOUSE, BOISE, IDAHO 83720-9990

March 11, 1988

Cary Wyke
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, ID 83706

Dear Mr. Wyke:

Re: Draft Proposed Plan Amendments and Environmental Impact
Statement for Small Wilderness Study Areas Statewide

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Environmental Quality (IDHW-DEQ), has reviewed the above-referenced draft EIS and would like to offer the following comments:

1. Box Creek WSA

The Box Creek WSA was rejected for wilderness because of its small size (440 acres) and because of land uses on adjacent federal and state lands. The selected alternative will allow hydroelectric power development and limited logging over 295 acres of the watershed (1.3 miles of road construction). Only 17,000 board feet will be harvested annually.

Box Creek is a high quality watershed with protected beneficial uses including cold-water biota and salmonid spawning (IDAPA 16.012050,02). Additionally, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has identified Box Creek as special resource water occupied by native redband and cutthroat trout. The nonwilderness designation will result in "slight degradation to water quality" and a "ten percent reduction in fish populations." The Boise Field Office (BFO) of the Division of Environmental Quality is interested in how these figures were obtained and what mitigative measures will be taken to reduce these impacts. The Box Creek watershed is steep, and logging and roading on the highly erosive granitic soils could have undesirable impacts on both water quality and beneficial uses. Because Box Creek is a class I stream, appropriate silvicultural Best Management Practices, including a 75-foot stream protection zone, should be implemented as required by state law (IDAPA 16.01.2300,05a). Box Creek will be monitored by BFO in subsequent years as part of an ongoing BFO forest practices water quality study.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL REGION

February 24, 1988

Gary Wyke, Project Manager
BLM State Office
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, ID 83706

Re: Small WSA Wilderness Recommendations

Dear Gary,

The Wilderness Society is a non-profit conservation organization with 212,000 members nationally including 900 members in Idaho. Our mission is the preservation and wise management of public lands and the resources found therein. It is on behalf of these individuals that I offer the following comments in response to the Proposed Plan Amendments and (Draft) Environmental Impact Statement for Small Wilderness Study Areas Statewide.

Henry's Lake WSA is a small but important part of the whole that makes up the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. This 350 acre tract is bounded on two sides by Lion's Head wilderness, and is an important part of the area's watershed, wildlife habitat and scenic integrity. The WSA itself supports a variety of wildlife species and is part of Situation 1 Grizzly Bear Habitat. The Wilderness Society supports your recommendation for protection of the 340 acres of the WSA, but without confirmation of a greater value exchange cannot support your exclusion of 10 acres from the southeast part of the WSA for the purposes of development. The 10 acres proposed for exclusion from wilderness are adjacent to recreation homesites and have a very exposed configuration, but as such they also provide very important habitat that overall is being whittled away each year by human-encroachment. Their value as habitat is not exceeded by exchange without proof. Proof that the exchange would bring into the public domain and protection resources even more valuable than those being lost. Simply providing more wild land for construction of recreation homesites does not justify their exclusion. So, lacking any justification, we oppose this 10 acre exclusion.

Cary Wyke
March 11, 1988
Page 2

2. Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA

Area is small and would be managed by BLM as an Outstanding Natural Area which would essentially preserve the area as wilderness. Area is closed and would remain closed to hydropower development and related water quality impacts.

3. Little Wood River WSA

The selected wilderness alternative for this area would be included as part of Pioneer Mountain's wilderness area. Since the area is currently protected as critical elk winter range and is managed essentially as wilderness, the proposed designation would not result in any water quality impacts.

4. Black Butte WSA

The selected nonwilderness alternatives would manage system as currently being done. No existing or potential water quality impacts are anticipated from this designation.

Other than the discussion on Box Creek WSA, the Division of Environmental Quality does not foresee any water quality impacts due to the selected alternatives.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Brooks
Administrator

KDB/JLY/kk/wl

cc: Al E. Murrey, P.E./Jerry Yoder
Michael McMasters
Craig Shepard
Cordon Hopson

We fully support your recommendation for the Borah Peak WSA plus which would protect 3,810 acres. This area is crucial winter range for a thousand antelope and 400 mule deer. The wild and scenic values found on these BLM lands are part and parcel of the Borah Peak ecosystem. The area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation on its own. Of major additional benefit is its location adjacent to the FS Borah Peak RARE II area. As wilderness, existing grazing would continue but could not increase. The steep slopes are covered with sagebrush-grass vegetation, but there is no water. Even Elkhorn Creek is already dewatered for irrigation. There are essentially no conflicts. The public, present and future, will be best served by wilderness designation of this small and wild part of America.

We also fully support the BLM's wilderness recommendation for Worm Creek WSA. The area is one of open benchlands and steep hillsides, dense aspen and fir/pine stands. It provides important habitat for a variety of mammals and birds. This is truly a small WSA totalling only 40 acres, but these acres are not isolated or unimportant. The WSA is bordered on two sides by the forest service RARE II Worm Creek wilderness and it augments the steeper and more forested habitat of that area.

We disagree with your position on Box Creek. The 440 acres of this WSA deserve to be protected as wilderness. Its location adjacent to a wild area that has not been recommended for wilderness simply emphasize the importance of keeping a core of pristine habitat available to rare and endangered wildlife. The surrounding lands are slated for logging and motorized activity, but as wilderness no roads would be built and no motorized activity would be authorized. Although it would be vulnerable to outside sights and sounds, those sounds would not be constant. The WSA has never been logged and supports and excellent fishery, and it is an important elk calving area. Without wilderness protection, it would be logged with the only management protection for calving elk being logging closure for 3 months starting the middle of April. A developer wants to build an unnecessary hydroelectric project in the WSA's southern portion with a 3,000 foot long, 50 foot wide penstock planned for burial within the WSA. A maintenance road would parallel the penstock and receive constant use. This hydro project alone would reduce the fish (redband, cutthroat, rainbow and whitefish) population by 10% over the long term. It is projected that the short term increase in sediment yield to Box Creek from logging and hydro activities inside the WSA would be 30% and an additional 10% from outside. The long term increase in sediment yield would be 15% from inside and 10% from outside; a total of 25% which is the threshold for fish survivability. The gray wolf lives in the vicinity and uses the area occasionally as do bobcat, osprey, and mountain quail. BLM claims logging and nonwilderness management would not impacted these animals, but we disagree. Although outside sights and at some times sounds, would possibly reduce opportunities for solitude, the outstanding natural resources of this WSA should not be foregone because of a possible reduction in perceived solitude. The

WSA should not be logged nor should the hydro project be allowed within its borders. ORV use in surrounding areas is not likely to pose a management problem to the WSA itself unless logging roads and the hydro project is completed and its maintenance road are constructed in the WSA. What manageability problems might arise would not be so significant to discount the wilderness values on these 440 acres. If protected by wilderness status, this area would become an island of undisturbed, virgin forest providing increasingly crucial habitat for fish, birds and mammals including endangered species. Therefore, we oppose the BLM's recommendation for no wilderness for Box Creek WSA and would support wilderness for the entire 440 acres.

The Wilderness Society believes that Lower Salmon Falls Canyon WSA should be fully protected in the wilderness preservation system. We support a 25,000 acre wilderness which includes surrounding plateau lands and the 3,500 rim-to-rim canyon. This extraordinary wild canyon was found unsuitable by the BLM because they believe the canyon is too narrow to afford opportunities for solitude. The canyon is remote and is within a 7,300 acre Outstanding Natural Area (ONA). It is 16 miles long, 300-600 feet deep, and densely vegetated with a floor that reaches widths of up to 1/2 mile. On the one hand BLM claims the Outstanding Natural Area management prescription is sufficient to protect the surrounding area from development and motorized activities, but insufficient to provide opportunities for solitude. Wilderness status for the acres we propose would provide opportunities for solitude and support the canyon's dynamic ecosystem. Indeed, wilderness protection for even the canyon or the ONA would provide opportunities for solitude and protect this truly special area. No less than seven species of raptors nest in this canyon along with over 75 other bird species. There are over 30 species of mammals including bobcat, cougar and feral sheep. Reintroduction of bighorn is being considered. Six species of fish and 65 plant varieties are supported. It is rich in cultural resources with 50 sites already having been identified. Wilderness protection for the canyon would preclude future exploration for oil & gas, but under current management no surface occupancy would be allowed either. It is essentially natural with only one trail in the canyon bottom. No significant conflicts exist. Clearly this is an extraordinary part of Idaho which deserves wilderness protection.

The Goldberg WSA with 3,290 acres is big enough to stand on its own, but is also adjacent to the Lemhi RARE II roadless area. BLM claims that because the FS did not recommend the North Lemhis, then Goldberg cannot be recommended either. This argument is insufficient. Indeed, there is current legislation that would provide wilderness protection for this RARE II area. The area is remote with about 1/3 being forested from which 124 mbf would be harvested annually if it is not protected by wilderness status. If the timber is cut, brush and possibly grasses would replace timber and the possibility exists that grazing would increase. The combined stress and damage from logging and grazing would cause severe degradation to the resources and

especially to water quality and the fishery. The WSA is entirely overlaid by the Bear Creek grazing allotment from which 1,300 AUMs are leased. Wilderness status would preclude any increases in grazing. Goldberg Creek is a tributary of the Pahsimeroi River which has an anadromous fishery, which in turn flows into the Salmon. Water quality in Goldberg is important and is even now threatened by logging and grazing. The WSA represents an important part of what remains wild in the fabulous Pahsimeroi Valley. It provides important summer and winter range for a variety of wildlife, and in particular supports large herds of deer and antelope. It is an essential part of a wild ecosystem. It is a source of outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. The Wilderness Society believes that the full 3,290 acres should be protected as wilderness.

Boulder Creek WSA is part of the fabulous Boulder-White Clouds RARE II roadless area near the E Fork of the Salmon River. Because the FS did not recommend the adjacent part of the roadless area for wilderness, the BLM has dropped the area as well. Again I will state that The Wilderness Society cannot accept this rationale. Conservationists have included this area in our proposal, and both the RARE II area and this WSA are part of current wilderness legislation. Manageability problems do not justify allowing this superb land to be developed as it would under proposed management. The area is comprised of moderately steep sagebrush/grass-covered slopes with patches of woodlands. It provides important general summer and winter range for deer, elk and bighorn sheep. The WSA is part of the East Fork grazing allotment. There is some ORV use mainly as access to the Sawtooth NRA now however nonwilderness status would open up the entire area to ORV use. Little Boulder Creek provides both anadromous and resident fish habitat. Riparian areas are degraded from grazing however wilderness status would not prevent continued grazing use. It would preclude grazing increases that may occur without wilderness protection. The Wilderness Society supports wilderness protection for the 1,930 acres of this WSA.

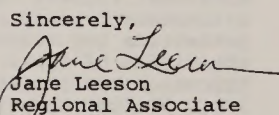
The Wilderness Society endorses the suitability recommendation for the 4,265 acre Little Wood River WSA. The area is rugged and mountainous, and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive unconfined recreation, and isolation. The WSA is overlaid with the Elk Mountain Crucial Elk Winter Range ACEC to assure the survival of an elk herd of up to 400 animals that summer in the Pioneers and winter in the ACEC, including this WSA. The WSA also supports year-round populations of mule deer, blue grouse, and sage grouse, bear and upland game birds. Raptors use the cottonwoods in the canyon bottoms for nesting. Currently the riparian areas in the WSA are degraded by grazing and without wilderness designation we cannot assured grazing levels won't increase.

Finally, the failure of the BLM to protect the wilderness values found in Black Butte WSA cannot be ignored. Black Butte itself is

an inactive volcano of recent origin with a 200 foot cone and a vent that reaches up to 1/2 mile wide and drops 200 feet down. The crater is a harsh tumble of lava benches, cliffs, jagged outcrops, tubes and vents. It would have provided exceptional opportunities for geologic studies. The flanks, however, are covered with young lava plates that are used for structural decoration, and mining claims for those sites supersede interim management regulations. Mining this veneer has essentially destroyed the naturalness of the WSA. But, the destruction could have been significantly less noticeable if an illegal road had not been built. No trespass was issued and this illegal road was integrated into an authorized Plan of Operations. The message was clear. We recognize that the BLM must allow mining on valid, preFLPMA claims even in WSAs, but they are required to protect the public domain from undue and unnecessary activities. That protection was not given to this WSA and now much of its wilderness values are gone. Portions of the WSA outside the mining area remain essentially natural, but the flanks around the most of the crater cannot even be reclaimed. Although we do not now support wilderness designation for this area, it was wilderness until just a year or two ago. The BLM must do a better job, and the public must work to reform the outdated 1872 Mining Act.

In summary, The Wilderness Society supports your wilderness recommendations for Borah Peak, Little Wood River, and Worm Creek WSAs. We support wilderness for the full acreage of Henry's Lake, Goldberg, Boulder and Box Creek. We support expanded wilderness for Lower Salmon Falls Creek.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

 Jane Leeson
 Regional Associate

Mr. Gary Wyke
 Project Manager
 Bureau of Land Management
 3380 American Terrace
 Boise, Idaho 83706

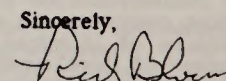
April 15, 1988

Dear Mr. Wyke,

I am writing to you concerning the draft EIS for BLM wilderness studies in Idaho. First I would like to support the wilderness designations for the areas that have been recommended. This would include; Borah Peak, Little Wood River, Henry's Lake, and Worm Creek. It is encouraging to see these recommendations.

In addition to these areas I would like to voice strong support for wilderness recommendations for some of the other areas studied. This includes; Boulder Creek, Goldberg, and Lower Salmon Falls Creek. All of these areas are noted for their wildlife and scenic/solitude values and are threatened with future development that other management designations won't curtail.

I highly value the protection of our remaining wilderness areas, and have made my living taking people into these areas for many years now. Please consider these additional recommendations.

Sincerely,

 Rich Bloom
 Rt. 1, Box 3303
 Driggs, ID 83422

Mr. Gary Wyke
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

April 15, 1988

Dear Mr. Wyke,

I am writing to you concerning the draft EIS for BLM wilderness studies in Idaho. First I would like to support the wilderness designations for the areas that have been recommended. This would include; Borah Peak, Little Wood River, Henry's Lake, and Worm Creek. It is encouraging to see these recommendations.

In addition to these areas I would like to voice strong support for wilderness recommendations for some of the other areas studied. This includes; Boulder Creek, Goldberg, and Lower Salmon Falls Creek. All of these areas are noted for their wildlife and scenic/solitude values and are threatened with future development that other management designations won't curtail.

I highly value the protection of our remaining wilderness areas, and have made my living taking people into these areas for many years now. Please consider these additional recommendations.

Sincerely,

Nancy Fitz Bloom
Nancy Fitz Bloom
Rt. 1, Box 3303
Driggs, ID 83422

GEAS comments on ELM Small Wilderness Study Areas in Idaho--April 16, 1988

LITTLE WOOD RIVER, we support the 4,265 acres of this area recommended by BLM

BLACK BUTTE, we support 4,068 acres as wilderness even though the area has experienced recent local damage, as this type of young lava area are distinctive to Idaho and should be adequately protected in as natural a state as possible.

In summary, Idaho's wild and wonderful lands need better protection for each season tens of thousands of wild desert acres are turned into feedlots, exotic vegetation stands, or overgrazed desert pavements, as the Wilderness Society has so aptly stated, and desert riparian areas are being committed to support less than 3% of the nation's cattle industry at ridiculously low fees per AUM, and many of these grazing allotments are being illegally leased by the permittees to other cattlemen at rates many times that paid the Federal Government. Wilderness protection will help alleviate some of these serious problems, with better cooperation from the ELM.

Respectfully submitted,

GOLDEN EAGLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Harold C. Miles
Harold C. Miles-Conservation Officer

Dated at Nampa, Idaho
April 16, 1988



Golden Eagle Audubon Society

15

CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 8261, BOISE, ID 83707

Harold C. Miles-Conservation Officer
316 Fifteenth Ave. South
Nampa, Idaho 83651

Re: ELM Small Wilderness Study Areas

April 16, 1988

Mr. Gary Wyke, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Sir:

The Golden Eagle Audubon Society (GEAS) comments as follows on the WSAs the ELM is now considering for Wilderness Designation:

BOX CREEK, we support 440 acres as Wilderness as this area has never been logged and it supports an excellent fishery; also is an important elk calving area. In addition, it will prevent a small hydro site from being developed; the siltation from laying a long parallel penstock would have serious detrimental effects from siltation on the Box Creek's resident fishery.

LOWER SALMON FALLS CREEK, we support 3,500 acres as Wilderness as we feel the proposed Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) is not sufficient to adequately protect the several species of raptors, 75 other bird species, several mammal species and be more conducive as an area for the introduction of desert bighorn sheep, which require this steep type of terrain.

HENRY'S LAKE, we support the 340 acres of this area recommended by ELM

WORM CREEK, we support the 40 acres recommended by ELM

GOLDBERG, we support 3,290 acres as Wilderness as Goldberg Creek is a tributary of Pahsimeroi River, which flows into the Salmon River. Also, it has an anadromous fishery, which we are desperately trying to preserve in Idaho. Also, it provides important general summer and winter range for deer, elk and especially big horn sheep, whose habitat needs all the protection it can get in Idaho.

BOULDER CREEK, we support 1,930 acres as this area provides important summer and winter range for deer, elk and bighorn sheep, a species we are particularly interested in protecting. In addition, its tributary, Little Boulder Creek, provides both anadromous and resident fish habitat, and due to the extremely critical state anadromous fish, particularly Chinook Salmon, are now in, especially in Idaho, anadromous fish need all the protection they can get. Also, non-wilderness status would open up this entire area to ORV use, which in all probability would be indiscriminate due to the difficulty ELM would have in protecting the area.

BORAH PEAK, we support the 3,880 acres recommended by ELM

GOLDEN EAGLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
SERVING SOUTHWEST IDAHO
(1)

UMONT MINING, INC.

2028 KENSINGTON AVENUE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84108

Wilderness Input
BLM State Office
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

April 8, 1988

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is written because of the poorly advertised and therefore poorly attended wilderness hearings held in Challis, Idaho February 22nd by BLM's Gregg Berry. One wonders if advance notice of such meetings is withheld only from rural areas like Challis that are most likely to understand the damaging effect of unnecessary lock-ups such as de jure wildernesses. I have noticed in Salt Lake City that notices of such meetings are sure to be sent to organizations such as the Sierra Club and Wilderness Society, but not so likely to be sent to multiple use organizations such as Outdoors Unlimited.

Gregg Berry said that people have until April 28 to comment on proposed wilderness study areas. This letter is our comment.

I am chief geologist and general manager of Umont Mining, Inc. We have extensive mining property in the Bayhorse mining district, including the townsite of Bayhorse, and on Harlan Creek we own the Sea-foam Mine and its related patented claims. We have been responsible for expenditures of \$5 million exploring those areas. The exploration results have been good, but production is not likely to be started for several years.

According to the Challis Messenger write-up of February 22nd, the BLM used the following criteria in proposing management of areas as wilderness or non-wilderness: hydroelectric development, timber harvest, water quality, wildlife and its winter range, proximity to Forest Service "de jure" wilderness areas, oil and gas exploration and development, fisheries, cultural resources, wilderness values and motorized recreation. Mineral potential is notably missing from the criteria. Is this omission a BLM or Challis Messenger error? I note that the Forest Service is inclined to delete non-renewable resources as a part of Forest land resources. Maybe the idea is to ignore such resources in the hopes the public will come to believe they do not exist.

For the record, please be advised that Umont Mining, Inc., is convinced that (1) there are too many de jure wilderness lock-ups now. (2) We believe that de jure wildernesses should revert back to de facto wildernesses and be managed by the NFS and BLM under the honest multiple use principle---not perverted exclusively to multiple forms of play as de jure wilderness designation, in effect, requires.

The proposal to designate Boulder Creek as wilderness, if it includes, blocks access to, or comes anywhere near Asarco's molybdenum mine, is a flagrant disregard of priorities in favor of play. Asarco might ignore principles in favor of profit and be willing to sell or trade their moly deposit, but that deposit could be only one of several in the area proposed to be locked up as de jure wilderness. In fact the

Wilderness Input

-2-

April 8, 1988

Sawtooth-White Cloud National Recreation area was created in spite of the known mineral potential of the region, thus effectively dampening incentive to explore the region.

It is time this nation realizes that one of the key elements of its continued strength is its public lands if well managed under full multiple use principles. Non-renewable resources tend to be renewable if used, for knowledge gained by use opens new, previously unthought of, exploration targets.

To lock up land as de jure wilderness that has known mineral deposits, or is well mineralized, is criminal.

To lock up land which is thought not to offer mineral potential is playing God. No one can know the unknowable, recognize the unrecognized, see the unseeable or predict with accuracy the future mineral demands of this nation. Regions not thought of as offering mineral potential may become extremely productive of key minerals. Such areas, in the mining jargon, were in the sneer zone before discovery of minerals or the need for certain minerals developed. Former sneer zones are the Coeur D'Alene silver belt starting with the Sunshine Mine discovery. Others are the Colorado Plateau uranium deposits, the Mesabi Iron Range, the New Brunswick silver-zinc-lead-copper region and Spindle Top in Texas to name a few former sneer zones of explorationists who played God. It takes a rare breed of intrepid explorationist to go against the consensus and discover great mineral deposits. De jure wildernesses lock out such explorationists whether they be unschooled prospectors or highly educated geologists and engineers.

Yours very truly,

*Dooley P. Wheeler Jr.*Dooley P. Wheeler, Jr.
Vice President and General ManagerDr. David L. Crowder
Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer
210 Main St.
Boise, Idaho 83702
208-334-3890

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CECIL D. ANDRUS, Governor

Archaeology/Oral History
210 Main St.
Boise, Idaho 83702
208-334-3847, 3863Museum
610 N. Julia Davis Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83702
208-334-2120Library and Archives
610 N. Julia Davis Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83702
208-334-3356Old Idaho Penitentiary
2445 Old Penitentiary Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83712
208-334-2844

April 14, 1988

Gary Wyke, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Mr. Wyke:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS for the BLM's small wilderness study areas. Our comments deal with the protection and preservation of archaeological and historic properties in these areas.

The BLM has responsibility to affirmatively manage archaeological and historic properties, even in wilderness areas. Congress has emphasized this by including language in the bill to establish the River of No Return Wilderness, requiring the Forest Service to conduct inventories and prepare management plans for archaeological and historic properties. The wilderness legislation currently proposed by Governor Andrus and Senator McClure also contains provisions to inventory and develop a management plan for historic properties.

Three of the BLM wilderness study areas are adjacent to land managed by the Forest Service that are included in the Andrus and McClure proposal. These are the Henrys Lake, Borah Peak and Little Wood River Wilderness Areas. Archaeological and historic surveys have not been completed in any of these WSA's, so inventories of historic properties are not available. Prehistoric archaeological sites have been recorded in the Borah Peak WSA.

We recommend the BLM prepare an inventory of the historic properties in WSA's recommended for Wilderness. Sites found should be evaluated for their significance, and, if eligible for the National Register, they should be managed such that their values do not diminish through neglect. Neglect of National Register properties is considered an adverse effect and requires the

17.1

Gary Wyke
April 14, 1988
Page 2

BLM to consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. It may be a long time before Congress decides whether to include these areas in the Wilderness system and some care should be taken to protect the archaeological and historic properties in these areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions about these comments please call (208-334-3847).

Sincerely,

*Thomas J. Green*Thomas J. Green
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

cc: Robert Fink

17



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
PORTLAND AREA OFFICE
POST OFFICE BOX 3785
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208IN REPLY REFER TO:
Land Services

APR 18 1988

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bureau of Land Management State Director, Idaho

FROM: Portland Area Director

SUBJECT: Review of the Proposed Plan Amendments and Environmental Impact Statement for Small Wilderness Study Area Statewide, Idaho

Our Northern Idaho Agency has reviewed the subject document and developed the attached comments. These comments reflect the concerns BIA has with the proposal.

Attachment

DATE: MAR 25 1988
ACCTG

REPLY TO: ATTN OF: Superintendent, Northern Idaho Agency

BRANCH OF LAND SERVICES, PAO

SUBJECT: Comments on the Proposed Plan Amendments and Environmental Impact Statement for Small Wilderness Study Areas Statewide, Idaho.

TO: Area Director, Portland Area Office
Attention: Bernie Burnham, Land Services, P204

The Nez Perce Tribe is interested in all activities which might have an affect on wildlife and anadromous and resident fish on tribal ceded lands. The Box Creek Small Wilderness Study Area (WSA) lies within the southern boundary of the Nez Perce ceded area.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, has identified this entire 440 acre tract as being non-suitable for wilderness designation and No Wilderness is the preferred alternative for this tract.

The Box Creek WSA is described as being substantially neutral with outstanding hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, and wildlife observation opportunities. Present water quality is excellent and Box Creek is rated as excellent for riparian values within the WSA. This area has never been logged and is home to many species of wildlife including Black Bear, Elk, Deer, and is an important calving area for Elk. Bobcat, Osprey and Mountain Quail are sensitive species that may use the area. Fish species include Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout, and Redband Trout. The Redband Trout has been identified as a species of special concern by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and a sensitive species by the Bureau of Land Management. The Grey Wolf, an endangered species, has been sighted a few miles from the WSA and may possibly use the WSA. This unit stands on it's own merit as a true wilderness area despite it's small size.

I appears that logging interests are being catered to in excluding this tract of land from wilderness designation. The small hydroelectric plant would be located outside the WSA if it (the WSA) was afforded wilderness designation and would have slight impact on the area. Since no mineral exploration is expected, this is not an activity of concern. Logging is the only activity that will impact this WSA, and would substantially alter the natural and wilderness characteristics of the unit. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities would be lost because of the presence of logging equipment and personnel. Soils on this unit have high or very high erosion hazard and logging roads and activities will increase stream sediments considerably and degrade water quality. Fish habitat quality and spawning beds would be impacted. Fish populations would be reduced by an estimated 10% over the long term. Of special concern is the impact to the Redband Trout.

RECEIVED

MAR 30 1988

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
PORTLAND AREA OFFICE

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 1-80)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-114

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1985 - 461-275/20128

Further justification for the No Wilderness Alternative is that wilderness suitability for the Box Creek WSA is dependent upon activities occurring or may occur in the adjacent Secesh and State of Idaho lands and opportunities for solitude and Primitive and Unconfined Opportunities would not be outstanding without wilderness designation for these WSA adjacent lands. The Box Creek WSA as previously mentioned, is basically natural in character and despite claims that the naturalness of the WSA would be lost anyway, logging would have a much greater impact upon this area and the fish and wildlife species therein, and all wilderness characteristics would be lost.

On the other hand, the Draft EIS states that timber harvest activities within the WSA would have minimal impacts on the adjacent U.S. Forest Service Secesh Roadless Area. Why would timber harvest activities from the WSA not affect the adjacent area, yet the same activity, only of a lesser degree, from the area adjacent to the WSA would impact the WSA to a degree that wilderness characteristics would be lost and therefore justify logging activities within the WSA?

Other WSA's identified as being non-suitable for wilderness designation include: Lower Salmon Falls Creek, 3,500 acres; Goldburg, 3,290 acres; Boulder Creek, 1,930 acres; Black Butte, 4,068 acres. Although these areas lie outside the boundaries of the Nez Perce ceded area, stream flows from these WSA's eventually flow into the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation and ceded area. Some major concerns of the Nez Perce Tribe include:

1. Sediment generation, transport and storage.
2. Reduced stream flows.
3. Increased stream flows and turbidity.
4. Protection of riparian habitat in stream bottoms, riparian habitat provides buffer zones for stream cleaning and sediment traps and help maintain cooler water temperatures.
5. Alteration of anadromous and resident fish runs, spawning and incubation areas.
6. Wildlife disruption and disruption of wildlife migratory routes.
7. Protection of cultural sites.

Handwritten signature

JOHN R. SWANSON
P.O. Box 6554
Minneapolis, Minn. 55406

April 19, 1988.

Bureau of Land Management
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706.

Dear Sirs;

Please accept my comments, as follows, concerning
Small Wilderness Study Areas Statewide Draft Environmental Impact Statement
I am agree with such Small Wilderness Study Areas, and continue to agree that they contain outstanding wilderness resources of certain National significance. With such areas fully providing a vital refuge for Man, and for all life, on this endangered planet.

May I suggest a Wilderness Preservation Alternative for each such Small Wilderness Study Area;
With each such area with areas presented as follows, and designated Wilderness:

Box Creek 449
Lower Salmon Falls Creek 29754
Henry's Lake 356
Worm Creek 42
Redhawk 5033
Boulder Creek 2586
Borah Peak 4720
Little Wood River 5419
Black Butte 5604

So remove the damaged area(s) of Black Butte.

For where some wilderness is
we save (improve)

Sincerely,
John R. Swanson.

19

April 20, 1988

RECEIVED

1988 APR 25 AM 9:00

BLM-IDSO

Gary Wyke, Project Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Mr. Wyke:

This letter contains my brief comments and recommendations with respect to BLM's Environmental Impact Statement for wilderness evaluations on Idaho roadless areas of less than 5,000 acres. Please consider my input, and include this letter in the appropriate public record.

I generally support and appreciate BLM's recommendation that Congress designate four new wilderness areas in Idaho. As you know, these four wilderness designations would consist of: Borah Peak (3,100 acres); Little Wood River (4,265 acres); Henry's Lake (340 acres); and Worm Creek (40 acres).

I believe these wilderness designations are reasonable and necessary. For example, I know that Borah Peak provides valuable deer and antelope habitat. Similarly, the Little Wood River provides critical elk winter range. However, I am disappointed that some other qualified and deserving roadless areas were not recommended for wilderness designation. In particular, I believe that Boulder Creek in the Boulder-White Clouds mountain range should have received a favorable wilderness recommendation. Apparently, this Boulder Creek Wilderness Study Area was rejected by BLM because the Forest Service is not recommending adjacent roadless areas for wilderness. I feel that the Boulder Creek WSA should be judged on its merits, and not be discounted due to Forest Service judgments or arbitrary legal boundaries.

Although I am not an Idaho resident, I am a frequent visitor. I enjoy hiking and rafting in Idaho's magnificent roadless areas. These BLM lands belong to all Americans. These lands should be managed and protected in the national interest.

Please continue to support the four wilderness recommendations referenced above, and add a wilderness recommendation for the Boulder Creek WSA.

Thank you very much for considering my views.

Sincerely,
Richard Spotts
Richard Spotts

RS/js

5604 Rosedale Way
Sacramento, CA 95822

RECEIVED
1980 APR 27 PM 3:00
BLM-IDSO

Box 106-A
Rt 4
Buhl, ID
83314

21

Small wilderness areas are usually of little
sacrifice to anyone and are very meaningful

to some of use. What percent of the land your
office manager has, or will have in the near future,
wilderness restrictions such as no ATV or livestock use.
It must be very small.

I hope the contemporary politics of this situation
offers a reasonable chance to save some of these areas.

Sincerely

[Signature]

Stanley R. Albree

Gary Wyke
Project Manager
BLM
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, ID
83706

Dear Mr Wyke:

This is a letter encouraging the BLM to consider
more Wilderness Areas, particularly the small ones, on land
it administers. When some conservation groups pay high
prices to preserve parcels of land as small as 40 acres

I fail to understand the rationale for not including
at least part of Salmon Falls Creek in a Wilderness
Study Area.

22

RECEIVED
1980 APR 26 PM 9:00
BLM-IDSO

Comments Of
DAVID MABE
Representing The
IDAHO PETROLEUM COUNCIL
And The
ROCKY MOUNTAIN OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

To

GARY WYKE
BLM Project Manager of
Proposed Plan Amendments
and
Environmental Impact Statement
for
Idaho Small Wilderness Study Areas

On behalf of the Idaho Petroleum Council, a division of the
Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association, known as RMOGA, I would like
to thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed plan
amendments and environmental impact statement for small wilderness
study areas in Idaho. Our organizations represent companies and
individuals, both large and small, that produce 90% of the oil and
gas from the eight states covered by RMOGA.

Continued access to Federal lands for oil and gas exploration
and development is of paramount importance, not only to our members
but the local, state, regional and national economies as well.
However, we do support the protection of environmentally sensitive
lands, containing unique or special attributes, by designation as
wilderness areas. In reviewing the acreages involved in this study,
it seems they are quite small and from BLM's own analysis in Chapter
3, Affected Environment, most contain no special attributes warranting
inclusion in the wilderness system.

There are three study areas that do contain limited special
qualities -- Lower Salmon Falls, Henry's Lake and Worm Creek. Of
these three, Lower Salmon Falls already receives adequate protection
as an outstanding natural area and is not recommended for wilderness
- a position we strongly support. The Worm Creek area is of particular
interest because of high oil and gas potential. While this area may
require some protection from lava mining, the creation of a forty
acre wilderness area is inappropriate and impractical. The McClure -
Andrus wilderness proposal does not include the adjacent Forest Service
Rare II study area and the BLM wilderness study area, totalling forty

acres, does not give the area any of the desired wilderness values such as solitude. The management of a small area would also create problems. This area should not be designated wilderness.

None of the remaining areas - Box Creek, Goldburg, Boulder Creek, Borah Peak, Little Wood River or Black Butte have any special qualities that make them deserving candidates for wilderness designation. The best wilderness system for Idaho is not the largest one that can be put together and many of these areas appear to have been recommended for wilderness simply because they were adjacent to other proposed wilderness areas, not because of their intrinsic values.

In conclusion, the wilderness designation is not the only way these areas' surface resources can be protected. Existing statutes, including the National Environmental Policy Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, National Forest Management Act and numerous other environmental laws, are designed to properly manage such areas' natural resources. In these instances, it appears these vehicles are a more appropriate management tool than wilderness designation.

On pages 40, 67, 68, reference is made to using the power line as a western boundary. I maintain that this type boundary will be much more of a problem to patrol and enforce because of the many areas which are easy to cross whereas the Forest Rare II proposed boundary is high enough on the steep hill side that it is not accessible by normal use of recreation vehicles.

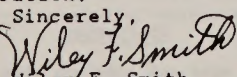
The 780 acres of additional proposal is definitely an after thought type determination and offers nothing more than additional acres. It is less attractive for wilderness classification than many other areas along the Borah Peak Rare II proposal. With a 69 KV power line and a 230 KV power line and a major highway 93 paralleling the entire WSA ID-47-4 and the additional 780 acres, and being visible from almost all of the 3880 acres, it is questionable how or by who could this WSA be determined to have unique solitude, naturalness, and primitive unconfined recreation values. It appears more of an impression that the BLM desires to share in the preservationist honors than to apply common sense classification to this particular unit of public land.

On page 67, and 68, it states: "The BLM area does not contain any unique lands or features that would add significantly to the Forest Service area's value as a wilderness." and as such, "This alternative would very slightly enhance the Borah Peak proposed wilderness area." On page 70, it states: "Failure to designate the WSA as wilderness would not have any effect on the Borah Peak Rare II Area." In Conclusion, "There would be no impact to the Borah Peak RARE II Area."

In Conclusion, this WSA ID-47-4 appears to be influenced more by a form of politics and creating a visible need for more man power and finances to the controlling agencies than protecting real honest wilderness.

This WSA contains no value that will be enhanced under Wilderness designation which has not already been protected sufficiently under multiple use management. This WSA ID-47-4 can best be managed most economically with "Multiple Use Management" as outlined in Section 103 of the Federal Land Planning Management Act. This type of management will outlast the design life of the 230 KV power line used for the boundary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

 Wiley F. Smith
 Mackay, Idaho 83251

RECEIVED

APR 22 1988

BLM-1000

April 25, 1988

Gary Wyke, Project Manager
 Bureau of Land Management
 3380 Americana Terrace
 Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Mr. Wyke:

I would like to enter comments on the Draft Proposed Plan Amendments and Environmental Impact Statement for Small Wilderness Study Areas, # 8500. My comments pertain to Borah Peak WSA ID-47-4.

In the Document, the term ORV is not defined to clarify if it means ATV's, Motor Bikes, only or if it includes ATV's, Motor Bikes, 4X4 Pickups, 2X4 Pickups and Cars. It does make a difference because on pages 24, 25, 41, 68, 69, reference is made as to approximately 10 days of ORV use per year. If it includes all "Off Road Vehicle Use", the estimated use time of 10 days is not enough. I do not feel that the recreation and hunter use on the 780 acre addition is included because it alone exceeds the stated estimate.

As to items pertaining to "Livestock Use and Range Management" and Items associated with this use as referred to on pages 25, 40, 41, 69. The implementation of the Borah Peak WSA ID-47-4 and the after thought 780 acre additional unit "will impact" livestock and range management. From the 1950's to the present, I have observed the use of horsemen to drive and move the livestock and the use of cars, pickups and motor bikes to make observation of the day to day range utilization and physical conditions of the permitted livestock. Mechanical equipment has been and will continue to be needed for the maintenance of the buried water lines, watering troughs, and fences which will be affected by the Wilderness Closure Boundaries.

I would like to call your attention to page 41 and the Borah reference map. The manual is correct in that there is no State Land within the proposed Borah Peak WSA ID-47-4, however, this proposed WSA creates a hemmed in State Section 36 between the BLM WSA and the Forest Rare II. Another question arises in asking what happens to the West Half of Section 25, T9N, R22E, which is west of the Forest Rare II Boundary and East of the BLM- WSA Boundary. With the State Section 36, T9N, R22E, the proposed action will force the State of Idaho to enter into Wilderness Management or surrender this section to BLM ownership. Within the last five years pickups were used to establish and supply a herders camp for livestock.

BORAH PEAK

Proposed Action (All Wilderness Plus Additional Acreage)

All 3,100 acres in the WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. In addition, 780 acres outside the WSA on the northern boundary would be recommended suitable. These 780 acres were deleted from the WSA during the wilderness inventory because the U.S. Forest Service's Borah Peak RARE II Area was not contiguous to them. In the Land Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest (USDA, 1987), the Forest Service lands contiguous to the BLM's 780 acres are proposed for wilderness designation.

A total of 3,880 BLM acres would be recommended suitable for designation as wilderness.

Recreation Management Actions

The WSA and additional acreage would be closed to recreational ORV use. Two visitor days of use are estimated to occur presently.

Energy and Mineral Resource Development Actions

No development actions could occur. The lands in the WSA and additional acreage would be withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use would continue at 280 AUMs in the Whiskey Springs allotment.

Forest Resources

No commercial timber sales would occur.

All Wilderness Alternative

Under this alternative, all 3,100 acres within the WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

Resource management actions would be the same as for the proposed action.

No Wilderness Alternative

None of the 3,100 acres in the WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation. The lands would be managed for other uses.

Recreation Management Actions

Lands would be open to all uses including ORV.

Energy and Mineral Resource Development Actions

The lands would be open to energy or mineral resource development actions, but none are anticipated.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use would continue at 280 AUMs in the Whiskey Springs Allotment.

Timber Harvest

Commercial timber sales would take place on 97 acres. One mile of road would be built. No demand for Christmas trees, firewood, or pole sales is projected.

Comparative Summary of Impacts

Borah Peak WSA

Resource Topic	Proposed Action (All Wilderness plus additional acreage)	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness Alternative
USFS Borah Peak Proposed Wilderness	Proposed wilderness area's values slightly enhanced	Proposed wilderness area's values slightly enhanced	No Impact
Wilderness Values	Values preserved on 3880 acres	Values preserved on 3100 acres	Values lost on 97 acres due to timber harvest
Deer & Antelope Winter Range	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Motorized Recreation	10 visitor days of ORV use displaced annually	10 visitor days of ORV use displaced annually	No Impact
Energy & Mineral Resource Management	Opportunity to ex- plore for and develop resource would be lost on 3880 acres	Opportunity to ex- plore for and develop resource would be lost on 3100 acres	No Impact
Livestock Grazing & Range Management	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Timber Harvest	Opportunity to harvest 14 MBF annually would be lost.	Opportunity to harvest 14 MBF annually would be lost.	No Impact

A limited amount of motorized recreation use of not more than ten visitor days probably occurs in the lower Elkhorn Creek area due to the obvious access road to the water diversion site. The extremely rough rocky terrain inhibits any other use.

Of the total study area of 3,880 acres, 311 acres are forested. From these, 97 acres are classified as commercial forest land suitable for management, and six acres are withdrawn from timber management due to adverse location. The remaining 208 acres are classified as non-commercial forest land or low production sites. The harvestable timber yield on the suitable commercial forest land is estimated at 14 MBF per year.

Most of the commercial timber is located in the Elkhorn Creek drainage. Approximate species composition is 75% Douglas-fir, 20% limber pine, and 5% Rocky Mountain juniper. Most of the Douglas-fir is medium saw timber, or approximately 16 inches in diameter. Slopes in the forested areas range from 15 to 75% with an average of 55%.

Relationship to Borah Peak Proposed Wilderness Area

Part of the WSA and 780 additional acres are contiguous with that portion of the Borah Peak RARE II Area that the U.S. Forest Service has identified as proposed wilderness area. The Land Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest recommends 119,000 acres for wilderness designation (USDA, 1987, Challis National Forest). (See Map 7.)

Land Status

The Borah Peak WSA contains 3,100 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings. The 780 acres outside the WSA that are also being considered are all public land.

Wilderness Values

The WSA and the additional 780 acres present a natural-appearing environment with the exception of the buried Elkhorn Creek diversion pipeline route, which is being reclaimed. The few range improvements are scattered and inconsequential. In conjunction with adjacent Forest Service roadless lands, the WSA offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. By itself, the WSA does not offer these outstanding opportunities.

Wildlife Habitat

The WSA and the grazing allotment are crucial winter range for 500 to 1,000 antelope and 400 mule deer. Mule deer and antelope also use the area as spring range. The actual winter numbers depend on the severity of the winter weather. Bighorn sheep and elk are not known to use the WSA.

There are no commercial timber lands in the WSA. There is no demand for other forest product sales.

Relationship to Boulder-White Clouds RARE II Area

The WSA is contiguous with the larger (433,000 acres) Boulder-White Cloud RARE II Area. The State Director's Final Decision January 3, 1980 (Idaho Intensive Wilderness Inventory - Challis Planning Area), stated: "The unit adjoins RARE II Further Planning Wilderness Unit 4-551 and is dependent on it to meet the size requirement." The final SNRA plan does not recommend the adjacent Forest Service lands for wilderness (USDA, 1987, Sawtooth National Forest).

Land Status

The Boulder Creek WSA contains 1,930 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings.

Wilderness Values

The WSA presents a natural-appearing environment. The few range improvements are scattered and inconsequential. The WSA is in a remote location, and, in conjunction with adjacent roadless lands, it offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. No special features have been identified.

Anadromous Fishery Resources

Little Boulder Creek provides both anadromous and resident fish habitat. A fish trapping facility was recently constructed just downstream from the Little Boulder Creek/East Fork confluence to aid the Idaho Fish and Game Department in their anadromous fishery recovery program.

BORAH PEAK

General Characteristics

The WSA contains 3,100 acres, and there are another 780 acres under consideration on the northern end of the WSA but outside the WSA boundary. The unit is located 15 miles northwest of Mackay, Idaho. The area is characterized by moderately steep to steep slopes sparsely covered with sagebrush-grass vegetation. The area is very dry and extremely rocky. No year-round creeks or streams occur. Elkhorn Creek is usually dewatered (when it has water) by an irrigation diversion.

No mining claims or oil and gas leases exist in the WSA or additional area. The western boundary of the WSA is defined by an existing high voltage transmission line.

The WSA and the additional 780 acres are part (55%) of the Whiskey Springs grazing allotment. Two miles of pasture division fence and two miles of buried water pipeline exist within the WSA. There is .8 mile of buried water pipeline within the additional 780 acres. There are 280 AUMs of livestock use authorized in the allotment.

Conclusion

There would be no significant impact to energy and mineral development.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock grazing and range management would be unaffected by this alternative.

BORAH PEAK

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to recommend for designation as wilderness all 3,100 acres in the WSA plus an additional 780 acres.

Impacts on the Borah Peak Proposed Wilderness Area

The use of the powerline on the west edge of the WSA would provide a clear boundary for a combined BLM/Forest Service wilderness. The actual impact of adding the BLM acreage to the Forest Service's Proposed Wilderness Area would be insignificant due to the large size of the Borah Peak Proposed Wilderness Area relative to the Borah Peak WSA. The BLM area does not contain any unique lands or features that would add significantly to the Forest Service area's value as a wilderness. Designation of the Borah Peak WSA and additional acreage would slightly enhance the opportunity for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation and increase the size of the proposed wilderness area approximately 3.3 percent.

Conclusion

This alternative would very slightly enhance the Borah Peak proposed wilderness area.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and primitive unconfined recreation would be preserved on 3,880 acres.

Conclusion

Wilderness values would be preserved on 3,880 acres.

Impacts on Deer and Antelope Winter Range

No actions are planned or projected in the WSA or the additional 780 acres; so no impacts to deer and antelope winter range are predicted.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to deer and antelope winter range.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Ten visitor days of use would be displaced annually. If the use is tied to this area rather than random, the users would likely move to the nearby Cedar Creek and Sawmill Canyon roads.

Conclusion

Ten visitor days of ORV use would be displaced annually.

Impacts on Energy and Mineral Resource Development

The WSA and the additional 780 acres would be withdrawn from mineral entry, and no energy or mineral development could occur. No mineral or energy resources have been identified in the area.

Conclusion

The opportunity to explore for and develop energy and mineral resources would be lost.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use would continue at present levels.

Impacts on Timber Harvest

No timber harvest would be allowed. The opportunity to harvest an estimated 14 MBF annually would be lost.

Conclusion

Timber harvest opportunity would be lost.

All Wilderness Alternative

The All Wilderness alternative would recommend all 3,100 acres of the WSA as suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on the Borah Peak Proposed Wilderness Area

The use of the powerline on the west edge of the WSA would provide a clear boundary for a combined BLM/Forest Service wilderness. The actual impact of adding the WSA to the Forest Service's Borah Peak proposed wilderness area would be insignificant due to the large size of the Forest Service area relative to the WSA. The WSA does not contain any unique lands or features that would add significantly to the Forest Service Area's value as wilderness. Designation of the Borah Peak WSA would increase the size of the proposed wilderness area approximately 2.6 per cent.

Conclusion

This alternative would very slightly enhance the Borah Peak proposed wilderness area.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and primitive unconfined recreation would be preserved on 3,100 acres.

Conclusion

Wilderness values would be preserved on 3,100 acres.

Impacts on Deer and Antelope Winter Range

No actions are planned or projected in the WSA; so no impacts to deer and antelope winter range are predicted.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to deer and antelope winter range.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Ten visitor days of use would be displaced. If this use is tied to this area, rather than random, the users would likely move to the nearby Cedar Creek and Sawmill Canyon roads.

Conclusion

Ten visitor days of ORV use would be displaced.

Impacts on Energy and Mineral Resource Development

The WSA would be withdrawn from mineral entry, and no energy or mineral development could occur. No energy or mineral resources have been identified in the area.

Conclusion

The opportunity to explore for and develop energy and mineral resources would be lost.

Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Livestock use would continue at present levels.

Conclusion

There would be no significant impact to livestock grazing and range management.

Impacts on Timber Harvest

No timber harvest would be allowed. The opportunity to harvest an estimated 14 MBF annually would be lost.

Conclusion

Timber harvest opportunity would be lost.

No Wilderness Alternative

This alternative recommends that the WSA be managed for nonwilderness multiple use management.

Impacts on the Borah Peak RARE II Area

Failure to designate the WSA as wilderness would not have any effect on the Borah Peak RARE II Area.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to the Borah Peak RARE II Area.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and primitive and unconfined recreation would be lost on 97 acres due to commercial timber sales. These sales would involve construction of one mile of road and surface disturbance on the 97 acres.

Conclusion

Wilderness values would be lost on 97 of the 3,100 acres in the WSA.

Impacts on Deer and Antelope Winter Range

No actions are planned or projected to occur in the winter range portion of the WSA; so, no impacts to deer and antelope winter range would occur.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to winter range.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation

Motorized use would be allowed. An estimated ten visitor days of use would occur.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to motorized recreation use.

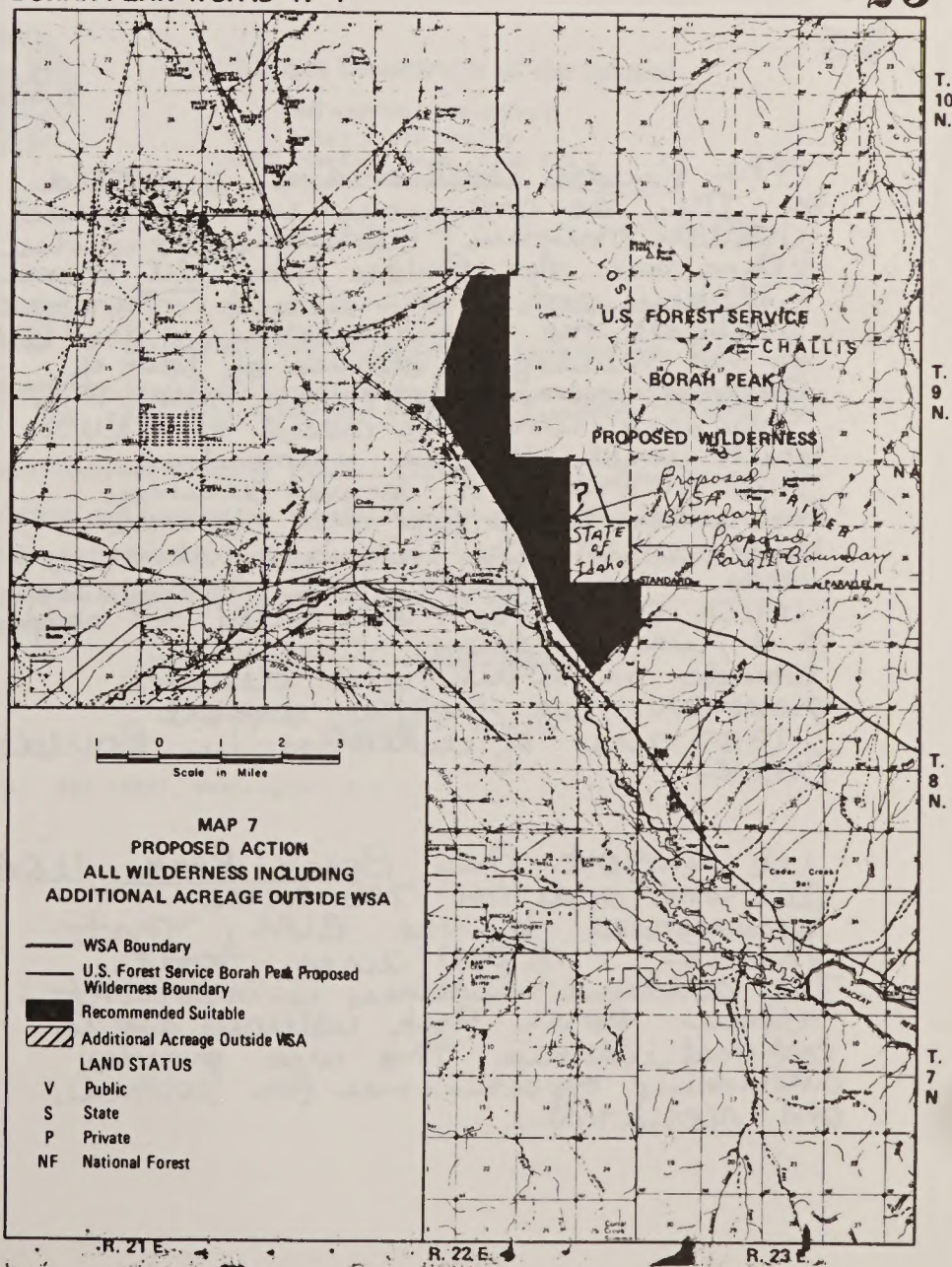
Impacts on Energy and Mineral Resource Development

The area would be open to energy and mineral development; however, no such development is expected.

Conclusion

There would be no impact to energy or mineral development.

BORAH PEAK WSA ID-47-4



April 22, 1988

24

RECEIVED

24

Dear Gary Wyke,

550 APR 23 11 09 AM

These comments are being written regarding the small BLM Wilderness Study Areas Draft EIS. We would like our comments to be part of the planning criteria for the final Draft for these areas.

We would like to have all 440 acres of the Box Creek area recommended for wilderness. This area needs to continue to provide crucial habitat for the elk in its boundary. The adjoining forest Service lands should also be considered for wilderness designation, instead of saying Box Creek shouldn't be wilderness because of the F/S lands adjoining. The water quality needs to be preserved, and not degraded by sediment due to logging adjacent areas. The timber harvest needs to be done in a manner that would not degrade water quality or NOT BE DONE at all.

Regarding Lower Salmon Falls Creek, we would like to see all 3500 acres of this area included as wilderness. Even the 7300 acre Outstanding Natural Area Remnant would be better. I used to live at Three Creek in Ouray County and I know this area well. To say that it does not offer wilderness solitude opportunities is ridiculous. The area's wildlife that reside in this canyon is enough

24.1

evidence. Raptors bobcats cougar and many others live there because of the solitude it offers. If it is an area being considered for Bighorn introduction it must be deserving of wilderness status, as well. The archeological sites must be preserved as well. Future gas and oil exploration is not a reasonable excuse for keeping this extraordinary area out of the wilderness proposal.

We support the Henry's Lake 350 acre proposal. Also the 40 acres recommended at Worm Creek.

Regarding the Goldberg area, we want to recommend all 3,290 acres as suitable for wilderness. We are concerned about keeping the cattle grazing to a reasonable (minimum) level and not increasing it. Water quality is a big issue because of the Goldberg Creek being a tributary of the Pahsimeroi. The Pahsimeroi is an important river for anadromous fish, which then flows into the Salmon. Grazing and logging must not degrade the water quality. Logging should not even be a reason for lack of designation because so many timber sales operate at a loss anyway. This area should be closed to ORVs. There should be forest Service areas that will be designated wilderness areas that could be contiguous with BLM WSA's.

24.1

24

24

The Boulder Creek area is supported by ICL as contiguous with proposed Boulder Mountain Wilderness. It is our feeling that the Boulder Mts. will become wilderness and that would therefore invalidate the recommendation of the BLM for not including it because of lack of wilderness recommendation by the F/S. This area would be closed to ORVs which would please us tremendously. It is an important general summer and winter range for deer elk and bighorn sheep. The riparian habitat needs to be protected from overgrazing which would be more likely to happen if it was wilderness. This area stands on its own and deserves protection. We therefore support 1930 acres of wilderness in Boulder Creek.

We support the Borah Peak WSA plus the addition 780 acres recommended by the BLM; that means 3880 acres total. The additional wilderness is important when Borah Peak wilderness area is confirmed wilderness. This area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.

The Little Wood River WSA is being recommended for 4,265 acres of wilderness. We commend the BLM action to designate this WSA as wilderness. We also support the IWDC proposal for the Pioneers as wilderness so this would go hand in hand with that. Grazing controls need to be exhibited by the BLM to keep the vegetation in a more natural appearance.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,
Susan Wood Ray
and
Paul Rank - President
on behalf of
Wood River I.C.L.



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: WD-136

Gary L. Wyke, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Mr. Wyke:

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Small Wilderness Study Areas, Statewide. Our review was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The OEIS evaluated nine wilderness study areas in southern and central Idaho for wilderness designation.

We have rated the OEIS as LO - Lack of Objections. An explanation of the EPA rating system is enclosed for your reference.

In reviewing this EIS, our main environmental concern was how wilderness designation would impact water quality and fishery habitat. We recommend, therefore, that the final EIS include water quality and fishery impacts as planning criteria common to all the WSAs.

Our only specific comments deal with the Box Creek WSA. Fish populations are estimated to be reduced by up to 10% due to timber harvest activities and hydroelectric development allowed if the area is not designated wilderness. This estimate does not appear to include the impacts associated with activities on land adjacent to the WSA, which are described under the all wilderness alternative. This point should be clarified in the final EIS. In addition, the methodology used in arriving at these estimates should be described.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the OEIS. If there are any questions, please contact Gerald Opatz, Chief of our Environmental Review Section, at (206) 442-8505 or FTS 399-8505.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Lee
Ronald A. Lee, Chief
Environmental Evaluation Branch

Enclosure

25

25

Environmental Impact of the Action

LO--Lack of Objections

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC--Environmental Concerns

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EQ--Environmental Objections

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no-action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU--Environmentally Unsatisfactory

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEQ.

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1--Adequate

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis of data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2--Insufficient Information

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3--Inadequate

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

* From EPA Manual 1640 Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment

February, 1997

Idaho Wool Growers Association 26

P.O. BOX 2596 • I.B.&T. CENTER — SUITE 205 • 802 WEST BANNOCK • BOISE, IDAHO 83701 • PHONE 208-344-2271

OFFICERS

President
Secretary
Treasurer

President: Gary Wyke, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, ID 83706

RECEIPTS

The Idaho Wool Growers Association welcomes this opportunity to comment on the "proposed plan amendments and environmental impact statement for small wilderness study areas."

This Association agrees with the proposal to find nonsuitable for designation as wilderness the Box Creek, Lower Salmon Falls Creek, Goldburg, Boulder Creek, and Black Butte areas. We do, however, disagree with the proposal in recommending that the Henry's Lake (340 acres), Worm Creek, Borah Peak, and Little Wood area be recommended suitable for designation as wilderness.

Lands designated as wilderness simply do not allow proper range and forest management techniques to be employed. The productivity, and enjoyment by the vast majority of Americans, is reduced greatly by Congressional designation of lands as wilderness.

The Little Wool River area (4,265 acres) is of particular concern to Idaho's livestock industry. This area has been grazed in the past and designating it as wilderness can only impede the management skills that has allowed the area to be as productive as it has been.

This Association urges that all the small wilderness areas being considered in this proposal be dropped from further consideration as possible wilderness sites.

Sincerely,

Stanley T. Boyd
Stanley T. Boyd
Executive Director

STB/tjs

April 27, 1988



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

BOISE FIELD OFFICE
4696 Overland Road, Room 576
Boise, Idaho 83705

May 3, 1988

TO: Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Boise
FROM: Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Boise
SUBJECT: Draft EIS for the Proposed Plan Amendments and EIS for the Small Wilderness Study Area Statewide (EC 88/2)

The Fish and Wildlife Service appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the subject draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Threatened and endangered species concerns have been addressed in the report. We have no further comments.

John P. Wolflin
John P. Wolflin

cc: BFA (ERT), Washington, D.C.

27

IDAHO WILDERNESS EIS

Public Hearing

February 22, 1988

7:00 P. M.

Salmon River Electric Building

Challis, Idaho

Gregg Berry - Hearing Officer

Gary Wyke - Planning Coordinator

Bob Hale - Challis Resource

Reported by:
Karen Konvalinka, C.S.R.

EASTERN IDAHO COURT REPORTERS

P.O. BOX 853
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83402
529-0222

PROCEEDINGS

THE HEARING OFFICER: I would like to now call this public hearing to order. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I am Gregg Berry, Chief of Recreation, Planning, and Environmental Coordination in the Idaho State Office, Boise, Idaho.

I have been appointed by the Idaho State Director of the Bureau of Land Management to conduct this public hearing under authority of the Secretary of the Interior.

This hearing is being conducted to comply with Section 3-D of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments from all interested parties concerning the Wilderness Study recommendation contained in the Draft Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement. In a moment I will call upon a BLM representative to summarize the findings of the Wilderness Study.

The purpose of this hearing centers on two issues: First, are these Wilderness Study areas suitable or not suitable for designation as wilderness? Your views and any information you can offer with respect to this question will be greatly appreciated. Second: Is the Environmental Impact Statement adequate? Your

substantive comments and suggestions for improvement with regard to this aspect of this study will also be appreciated.

I would now like to explain the procedures and ground rules which will be followed during the hearing. The official Reporter seated on my left is Karen Konvalinka. She will prepare a verbatim transcript of everything that is said in this hearing. If you wish to obtain a copy of the transcript, you should make your own arrangements with the Reporter.

We will receive oral comments from those persons wishing to make a presentation. Cards have been provided at the door for those desiring to make a presentation. If you wish to make a presentation and have not yet filled out a card, please do so now. Print your name, address, your affiliation, if any. When these are collected, we will proceed.

At this time I would like to call upon Gary Wyke, seated on my right, who is the Planning Coordinator of the Bureau of Land Management for Idaho, to summarize the preliminary findings of the Wilderness Study. Mr. Wyke?

MR. WYKE: Thanks, Gregg. I'm going to briefly summarize the Wilderness Study process, and then I'll briefly summarize the EIS we're here to receive

hearing comments on tonight and then tell you what we will do with those comments, plus any written comments we might get before the review period ends. That ends, incidentally, on April 28th.

I might point out now that this is our address up here, Idaho State Office, 3380 Americana Terrace, Boise, 83706. If you want to make written comment, you can mail them to that address. We need to receive them by April 28th.

The Wilderness Study process is in three phrases. Originally we went through an inventory phase, which identified those parts of the public land that have wilderness characteristics that meet the basic definition of wilderness for the 1964 Wilderness Act. The study areas we're here to consider tonight are all small. They're all under 5,000 acres.

One of the definitions of wilderness is that it is an area containing certain wilderness qualities which is at least 5,000 acres in size or is large enough to be managed to retain its wilderness properties, even though it might be less than 5,000 acres in size.

The nine study areas we're looking at tonight are all in that category. They were originally identified in the inventory process, along with several much larger areas. Then in 1982, Secretary Watt issued a secretaria

order that dropped them from the process, all study areas under 5,000 acres that were identified under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. That secretarial order was challenged in District Court, and the judge remanded that decision back to the secretary and said, "You need to consider these further."

So that's why we have these nine smaller areas being considered in a document by themselves.

Briefly, you're not going to be able to see these areas on the map, but I'll have it up here if you want to look at it after the hearing. I would just briefly summarize what the EIS is looking at and what the recommendation is with just a brief statement about the rationale for that recommendation. The whole rationale for the recommendations we have made is in the EIS there.

The Box Creek Study Area, up here just north of McCall, 440 acres. We recommend it nonsuitable. It's one that is being considered because it's adjacent to a Forest Service roadless area.

It's true throughout this document that the ones recommended suitable are adjacent to a Forest Service roadless area that has been recommended suitable. The ones that are nonsuitable in each case are adjacent to a Forest Service area that has been recommended

nonsuitable. There are two exceptions. I'll point them out in just a second: The first one of those exceptions is Lower Salmon Falls Creek down here. That is not adjacent to a Forest Service area. It is identified by itself. It had the wilderness characteristics to be looked at as a study area. The rationale for recommending it nonsuitable is that it's a narrow configuration. There's limited access into it, and that tends to concentrate people together, which reduces the opportunity for people to go in there and have a real wilderness experience.

The Henry's Lake Study Area over here is 350 acres. 340 acres of it are recommended suitable in conjunction with the Forest Service Lion's Head roadless area to there. The ten acres recommended nonsuitable are little pieces on the southern end of the study area that surround recreational housing development there.

The Worm Creek Study Area is a little 40-acre piece down here in the southeast part of the State. It is adjacent to the Worm Creek roadless area the Forest Service has which they recommended suitable, and we recommended it suitable in conjunction with that.

I should point out, I guess, that as we were talking earlier before the hearing officially opened, these recommendations are dependent on what happens to the

Forest Service roadless areas. If those recommendations are not carried through, then it's likely that our recommendations would change. We wouldn't be recommending a 40-acre piece out there by itself for wilderness if the Forest Service recommendation isn't followed up on.

The Goldburg Study Area here is recommended nonsuitable. The adjacent roadless area was recommended nonsuitable. Also, there is the potential for harvesting timber on about 930 acres in there that would be a trade-off. So the recommendation there is nonsuitable.

The Borah Peak Area here is recommended suitable, along with the Forest Service recommendation. There's an additional 780 acres on this Borah Peak unit that are actually outside the study area we have recommended suitable for wilderness, as well.

MR. WHITWORTH: Where is that at, the additional acres?

MR. WYKE: On the north end of the study unit, adjacent to the Forest Service roadless area.

The Boulder Creek Study Area, right here, is recommended nonsuitable, again, in conjunction with the Forest Service recommendation.

The Black Butte Study Area down here in the Shoshone District is recommended nonsuitable. It's an area that has slab lava mining occurring in it, which

are legitimate mining claims. Because of the effect on the appearance of the area, again, we felt it couldn't be managed as a natural looking wilderness, and have not recommended it suitable.

The Little Wood River Study Area on the southern end of the Forest Service roadless area that has been recommended suitable, and our recommendation on that one is suitable.

I should point out that the hearing tonight is just to receive comments on these nine small areas. We have done studies on all the other wilderness areas around the State. Most of them, all but two, have been distributed, and we had hearings on those at that time. We would be glad to talk to you about the other areas after the official record of the hearing is closed, but we do need to limit the testimony to that subject tonight.

What will we do with the testimony we get? The people who wrote the EIS, myself and others in the District Offices around the State, will review it and answer any questions that raise issues about the accuracy of the EIS or that indicate we have failed to give some information clearly enough. Also, the managers who make the recommendations will be looking at the statements and taking those into account before the final recommendation is made.

1 So I'll turn this back over now to Gregg
2 Berry to get on with the testimony.
3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Wyke.
4 I ask that persons making a statement please speak
5 loudly and clearly for the Reporter to properly hear
6 your statements. Since the hearing is being reported,
7 we cannot have more than one person talking at one time.
8 This hearing is not the only opportunity the public has
9 to comment on our wilderness proposals or EIS. Written
10 comments may be submitted to the address that is identi-
11 fied behind me.
12 If you want to receive a copy of the final
13 EIS and are not already on our mailing list, please
14 leave your name and address with me. If you have already
15 received a copy of the Draft EIS in the mail, you are
16 already on our list.
17 I would like to point out one other ground
18 rule before we start. This hearing is not a debate,
19 trial, or question and answer situation. It is an
20 advisory hearing, and all interested persons may pre-
21 sent statements pertinent to the Wilderness Study we are
22 considering today. There will be no cross examination
23 from the audience. A clarifying question may be directed
24 to me by the BLM representatives seated on my right,
25 Mr. Wyke and Mr. Bob Hale, Area Manager of the Challis

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Let me remind you again,
2 we're here to just take testimony, not answer questions
3 at this time. But, as Mr. Wyke said, after the formal
4 hearing is closed, we can sure get with you and answer
5 any questions you may have.
6 MR. COBBLEY: Well, if you put it that way,
7 there's only one other way then. Since I don't know
8 where the exact deal is, but I'm totally against any
9 wilderness in any area. It eliminates all your hunting
10 access. You know, wilderness is an area of nonuse, and
11 so I don't like to see it, because it eliminates all of
12 your access and so forth.
13 That's about it, if we can't get into
14 specifics. Like I say, I'm a little unaware or not up
15 to date on exactly where the trails and stuff go. So
16 that will be my comment.
17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much,
18 Mr. Cobbley.
19 Next, Mr. Herbert Whitworth?
20 MR. WHITWORTH: I don't have testimony pre-
21 pared. I would like to ask some questions, because I
22 live right down there on Elk Horn Creek, and I have a
23 pipeline, and I'm interested in the line there and what
24 they're doing with it.
25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Is there anyone else

1 Resource Area. And I will determine whether it is
2 pertinent.
3 This may seem overly formal, but it is in-
4 tended to give everyone a fair and reasonable opportunity
5 to present his or her views.
6 One final point: This is a public meeting,
7 and state law prohibits smoking in a public meeting, so
8 please refrain.
9 At this time, then, I will call upon the
10 speakers in the order they signed in. Again, as a
11 reminder, please give your full name and affiliation, if
12 any.
13 First, Mr. Steve Cobbley?
14 MR. COBBLEY: This is just basically a comment
15 on all plans, then, or do you want to go through them
16 specifically?
17 THE HEARING OFFICER: However you choose.
18 MR. COBBLEY: Well, I'm unfamiliar with a
19 lot of them, but just let's take Borah Peak first. Of
20 course, this will all depend on McClure's bill, too,
21 but there's a lot of ORV trails through there, one of
22 them right through Leatherman Pass is a good ORV trail.
23 Well, it's not real great, but it is through there. Now
24 will that become affected through this wilderness, your
25 Wilderness Study there?

1 that would care to present any testimony at all at this
2 time?
3 MR. BERGEY: Sure.
4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Would you please give
5 me your name?
6 MR. BERGEY: My name is David Bergey, and
7 I'm a private citizen. I work for the mine up here at
8 Cyprus, if that makes any difference.
9 I guess my only concern, I'm neutral with
10 respect to the issue, but back to what I was asking you
11 about just before the meeting, I hope that the BLM and
12 the Forest Service, if they're going to institute this
13 wilderness program up here, that they coordinate a
14 little bit so you don't have that checkerboard owner-
15 ship. I've seen that cause a lot of problems in manage-
16 ment, you know, from a land management standpoint and
17 also from a user standpoint. I hope that's addressed.
18 That's all I have.
19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much,
20 Mr. Bergey.
21 Does anyone else care to make a statement at
22 this time?
23 (No response.)
24
25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay, with that, then,

1 I thank all of you for your attendance and input, and
2 this hearing is now officially closed, and we would like
3 to get with you and see if we can't answer some of the
4 questions you have.

5
6 (The hearing was adjourned.)
7
8 * * *

1 REPORTER'S AFFIDAVIT

2
3 STATE OF IDAHO)
4) ss.
5 County of Bonneville)

6
7 I, KAREN KONVALINKA, do hereby certify that I
8 am an Official Certified Shorthand Reporter and a Notary
9 Public in and for the State of Idaho;

10 That I took down the proceedings aforesaid at
11 the time and place therein named and thereafter reduced
12 the same to typewriting under my direction and control.

13 I further certify that I have no interest in
14 the event of the action.

15 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this the 29th day
16 of February, 1988.

17 (Signature)

Karen Konvalinka
Karen Konvalinka, C. S. R.,
Notary Public in and for the
State of Idaho, residing at
Idaho Falls, Idaho.

18 (Seal)

19 My commission expires: Perpetual
20
21
22
23
24
25

IDAHO WILDERNESS EIS

Public Hearing

February 23, 1988

7:00 P. M.

Idaho Falls Public Library

457 Broadway

Idaho Falls, Idaho

Greg Berry - Hearing Officer

Gary Wyke - Planning Coordinator

John Butz - Outdoor Recreation Planner

Reported by:
Karen Konvalinka, C.S.R.

COPY

1 PROCEEDINGS

2
3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening, ladies
4 and gentlemen. I'm Gregg Berry, the Chief of Recreation,
5 Planning, and Environmental Coordination of the Idaho
6 State Office. I have been appointed by the Idaho State
7 Director of the Bureau of Land Management to conduct
8 this public hearing under authority of the Secretary of
9 the Interior.

10 This hearing is being conducted to comply
11 with Section 3-D of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

12 The purpose of this hearing is to receive
13 comments from all interested parties concerning the
14 Wilderness Study recommendations contained in the Draft
15 Idaho Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement.

16 In a moment, I will call upon a BLM repre-
17 sentative to summarize the findings of the Wilderness
18 Study.

19 The purpose of this hearing centers on two
20 issues: First, are these Wilderness Study areas suitable
21 or not suitable for designation as wilderness? Your
22 views and any information you can offer with respect to
23 this question will be greatly appreciated.

24 Second, is the Environmental Impact Statement
25 adequate? Your substantive comments and suggestions for

1 improvement in regard to this aspect of the study will
2 also be appreciated.

3 I would now like to explain the procedures
4 and ground rules which will be followed during the
5 hearing. The official Reporter seated here on my right
6 is Karen Konvalinka, and she will prepare a verbatim
7 transcript of everything that is said in this hearing.
8 If you wish to obtain a copy of the transcript, you
9 should make your own arrangements with the Reporter.

10 We will receive oral comments from those
11 persons wishing to make a presentation. Cards have been
12 provided at the door for those desiring to make a pre-
13 sentation. If you wish to make a presentation and have
14 not yet filled out a card, please do so now. Put your
15 full name, address, and your affiliation, if any. When
16 these are collected, we will proceed.

17 At this time, I would like to call upon Gary
18 Wyke, seated on my far left, who is the Planning
19 Coordinator of the BLM for Idaho, to summarize the findings
20 of the Wilderness Study.

21 MR. WYKE: Thank you, Gregg. I'm going to
22 try to briefly summarize the wilderness review process,
23 so that what we're doing here this evening maybe has a
24 little bit more meaning. We can kind of put it in the
25 context of the whole process. Then I'll briefly summarize

1 the EIS that we're here to talk about tonight, and then
2 tell you what we'll do with the comments you give us.

3 The Wilderness Study process, or the review
4 process, has three phases: First is the inventory phase,
5 in which we went out and looked at all the public lands
6 that had the characteristics of wilderness that met
7 the definition of the 1964 Wilderness Act. We finished
8 that process in 1982 here in Idaho.

9 The second phase is the study process, in
10 which we look at all the individual study areas that
11 have been identified during the inventory process and
12 consider the resources that are there, consider the
13 wilderness values, the wilderness characteristics and
14 use the findings of that study to make a recommendation
15 whether it should be suitable or unsuitable. It's that
16 second phase that we're in tonight with this EIS and the
17 nine study areas we're looking at.

18 The third phase is the reporting phase.
19 After we have completed these EISes statewide in about
20 another year in Idaho, we will forward to our Washington
21 office and then to the Secretary of Interior, all of
22 the recommendations on the study areas on the BLM lands
23 throughout Idaho. On those study areas recommended
24 suitable, a mineral survey will be done and a report
25 made by the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines.

1 The study areas we're looking at tonight are
2 a bit different from the ones that we've looked at to
3 date. They're all small; they're all under 5,000 acres.
4 The reason we're looking at them in one document is that
5 back in 1982, Secretary Watt dropped out of the wilderness
6 review process those study areas under 5,000 acres that
7 were identified under Section 603 of the Federal Land
8 Policy and Management Act. That directive of his was
9 challenged in court, and the judge gave it back to the
10 Secretary, remanded it to him asking him to reconsider
11 it. By that time, Donald Hodel was Secretary, and he
12 decided to go ahead and put them through the study process.

13 There was one other, there was a tenth small
14 study area up in Northern Idaho. The study areas were
15 remanded back to us in time that we included that one in
16 the North Idaho Wilderness EIS a couple years back, so
17 the nine remaining are the nine we are looking at tonight.

18 Just briefly, you won't be able to see these
19 probably on this map, but you're welcome to come up and
20 look at it after the formal part of the hearing, if you
21 would like. I'll just briefly summarize the EIS, then,
22 we're looking at tonight.

23 The Box Creek Study Area up here north of
24 McCall is 440 acres. Our recommendation on that is that
25 it is unsuitable for wilderness. It, like seven of the

1 study areas that we're looking at tonight, are really
2 dependent on the Forest Service roadless areas adjacent
3 to them. It's true in each case that where the Forest
4 Service has recommended their roadless area as suitable,
5 we've recommended our study areas as suitable, and the
6 opposite is true. Where they recommend theirs as non-
7 suitable, we have recommended ours unsuitable. The
8 reason for that is that they are small, and they, for
9 the most part, don't lend themselves to being managed
10 as wilderness all by themselves. So that's Box Creek up
11 by McCall.

12 The Lower Salmon Falls Creek down here is
13 3500 acres. It has been recommended unsuitable at this
14 point, the rationale being that it's a narrow configura-
15 tion, a narrow canyon, and there are few access points
16 to it, and that tends to concentrate people in small
17 areas that reduce the opportunity for people to have a
18 solitary and primitive wilderness type experience.

19 The Henry's Lake over here is 350 acres. We've
20 recommended 340 acres of it as suitable. It's adjacent
21 to the Forest Service proposed Lion's Head Wilderness
22 Area, and it would make a reasonable addition to it.
23 The ten acres we've recommended unsuitable extend and
24 kind of surround some private houses there. That's why
25 they're recommended unsuitable.

1 We have a little 40-acre study area down
2 here, Warm Creek, adjacent to the Forest Service Warm
3 Creek roadless area. That has been recommended as
4 suitable in conjunction with the Forest Service proposed
5 wilderness.

6 The Goldburg Study Area here is 3290 acres
7 and is recommended nonsuitable. It's adjacent to the
8 Forest Service North Lemhi roadless area, and they have
9 recommended that nonsuitable. It may be there is one
10 potential conflict in that area, as well. There are
11 about 930 acres of timber that potentially could be
12 harvested if it were not wilderness. That's not a major
13 consideration in the recommendation, but it is a po-
14 tential resource conflict.

15 The Borah Peak Study Area has been recommended
16 suitable in conjunction with the Forest Service Borah
17 Peak Wilderness Area. It's 3100 acres. We've recommended
18 the whole study area suitable, plus another 780 acres
19 outside the study area in that case.

20 Boulder Creek is adjacent to the Forest Service
21 White Cloud roadless area. They've recommended that
22 nonsuitable, and we recommend the Boulder Creek, it's
23 1930 acres, we recommended it nonsuitable.

24 The Little Wood River Study Area in our
25 Shoshone District is recommended suitable. It's adjacent

7

1 to the Pioneer Mountains proposed wilderness area of the
2 Forest Service.

3 The ninth one, the Black Butte Study Area
4 north of Shoshone, we've recommended nonsuitable. It
5 has undergone considerable slab lava mining and does
6 not have a natural appearance, and we don't think it is
7 going to lend itself to managing as a natural area.

8 I should point out that we want to limit
9 testimony tonight to these study areas. We could talk
10 to you after the hearing if you're interested about some
11 of the others, maybe, if you had any questions on them.
12 But we held hearings for each of those earlier, and we
13 do need to limit testimony just to these nine tonight.

14 Also, I'd like to point out that this isn't
15 the only opportunity to make comment. We're accepting
16 written comments until April 28th, and the address that
17 they should go to is up there on the wall. It's 3380
18 Americana Terrace in Boise. Any comments you give us
19 tonight will be reviewed by the team that wrote the EIS,
20 and those comments that suggest we've left something out
21 or got something wrong, or in some way have our informa-
22 tion wrong, or you give us additional information, will
23 be responded to in the final EIS. They'll also be
24 reviewed by the managers who make the final recommenda-
25 tions and will be taken into consideration in those final

8

1 recommendations.

2 With that, I'll turn it back to the Hearing
3 Officer, Gregg Berry.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Wyke.

5 Persons making a statement must first be
6 recognized by me, and I ask that you please make your
7 statements at the podium on my right. As Mr. Wyke
8 mentioned, this hearing is not the only opportunity the
9 public has to comment on our wilderness proposals or EIS,
10 and the mailing address, again, is the one on the wall
11 behind me.

12 If you want to receive a copy of the final
13 EIS and are not already on our mailing list, please
14 leave your name and address with me. If you have already
15 received a copy of the Draft EIS in the mail, you're
16 already on our list.

17 I would like to point out one other ground
18 rule before we start. This hearing is not a debate, a
19 trial, or a question and answer situation. It is an
20 advisory hearing, and all interested persons may present
21 statements pertinent to the Wilderness Study we are
22 considering today. There will be no cross examination
23 from the audience. A clarifying question may be directed
24 to me by the BLM representatives, Mr. Wyke on my far left
25 or Mr. John Butz, the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the

9

1 Idaho Falls District, and I will determine whether it is
2 pertinent.

3 This may seem overly formal, but it is in-
4 tended to give everyone a fair and reasonable opportunity
5 to present his or her views.

6 One final point, this is a public meeting
7 and state law prohibits smoking in a public meeting, so
8 please refrain.

9 At this time, then I will call on the speakers
10 in the order they signed in. Again, as a reminder,
11 please give your full name and affiliation, if any.

12 Jerry Jaynes?

13 MR. JAYNES: Thank you people from BLM. My
14 name is Jerry Jaynes, 1568 Lola Street, Idaho Falls.
15 I'm representing myself tonight.

16 These nine areas which the Secretary of the
17 Interior, James Watt, attempted to drop from the review
18 process, as it turned out illegally, in his famous
19 midnight raid of December 30th, 1982. It's been re-
20 ferred to by some people rather irreverently as the
21 Watt droppings.

22 My view is that of all these nine areas, all
23 but Black Butte are suitable for and, indeed, they are,
24 in fact, wilderness. They should be kept as such, and
25 we should keep them that way by recommending they be

10

1 designated as statutory wilderness.

2 One of the main points I think you're over-
3 looking that came through in your explanation was that
4 these are not adjacent to large or national forest
5 roadless areas. They are part of them. It's all
6 unified areas. In fact, the two agencies managed two
7 sides of them has to be considered. They're ecologically,
8 biologically, and physically integral units, and the fact
9 that the Forest Service is recommending no wilderness
10 for some of their areas in some of their wretched land
11 use plans is no excuse for the BLM to conk out and do
12 likewise. Therefore, you ought to be recommending all
13 of these seven areas, as well as, I feel, North Salmon
14 Falls Creek.

15 So I would support your recommendation for
16 Worm Creek. It's part of the Worm Creek roadless area,
17 Forest Service, and BLM. It's sometimes referred to in
18 our conservation proposal as the Cash Creek Wilderness.
19 It's in the Moody - Kostmayer Bill, which is in Congress,
20 and which is the only bill which exists now which is
21 worthy of conservation's consideration on the Idaho
22 wilderness scene.

23 Henry's Lake we support, 340 acres would be
24 included, along with the Forest Service proposal. I
25 have a question about the ten acres you propose to

11

IF 1.1

1 dispose of. I guess I can't argue that you don't
2 propose to manage them as wilderness, since I see on the
3 map that they are rather irregular in shape and protrude
4 out into the midst of the private land, but I couldn't
5 find any reasoning in the EIS, the Medicine Lodge EIS
6 for disposing of that land. And I think that needs to
7 be either discussed or if you don't have a reason, don't
8 do it. I'm a little nervous about doing that, because
9 it just means more development area at the edge of the
10 wilderness area, which is important for wildlife includi
11 the grizzly bear.

12 Little Wood River proposal is good. That's a
13 nice area. It has a lot of habitat diversity, a lot of
14 species diversity. It's a critical elk winter range
15 for a large herd of elk, and the BLM is now commendably
16 managing it as an ACDC. There's an important cottonwood
17 riparian habitat there. I don't think it's mentioned in
18 the EIS, but that's another good reason for protecting
19 that area is cottonwood habitat. Riparian cottonwood
20 habitat is increasingly scarce and very valuable, has a
21 great deal of species diversity.

22 Your Borah Peak proposal is very good. I
23 think you recognized there that you had to look at the
24 entire area. You included not only what was in the
25 original study area, but the area to the north, which is

12

IF 1.2

1 also wilderness and up against the forest and the BLM
2 WSA.

3 So those four areas I support your recommenda-
4 tion for wilderness.

5 Black Butte is valuable, I suppose, for a
6 lesson in something or other. It's been trashed, frankly,
7 by the lava mining. I'm not sure the BLM did all they
8 could to stop the illegal road that went in there three
9 years ago to accomplish that mining. It would have been,
10 to some extent, and may still be a very important
11 educational area, scientific and educational. I think
12 it points up a couple things. One is that our mining
13 law needs to be overhauled that allows that kind of
14 atrocity to occur; and, secondly, it points up the fact
15 that sometimes threats to these areas are unforeseen.
16 We hear the argument, "Why do you need a wilderness
17 designation for Area X? There's no threats to it.
18 Nobody wants to log it or do anything to it."

19 Sometimes these threats materialize. I don't
20 think 20 or 30 years ago we would have foreseen that
21 lava mining would have been a threat to any of the lava
22 areas. Certainly, I didn't, and I've been working for
23 wilderness designation for some of these lava areas out
24 here for quite awhile. That was one of the reasons I
25 was, because I figured there would be something that

13

1 would pop up, and sure enough, it did in the case of
2 Black Butte.

3 I've been in Lower Falls Creek with my family
4 when my kids were younger, and it's a delightful place.
5 It's not real pristine, of course, like the Sellway
6 River, but I still think it should be recommended for
7 wilderness. You are down in a canyon. There is a sense
8 of seclusion, maybe a problem with overcrowding. You
9 may have to treat it like any other area that gets
10 overcrowded, regulate use, but I think you need to think
11 about recommending it for wilderness. I understand it's
12 already closed to ORV's and it's closed to motorized
13 access to the oil and gas lease that exists. I'd just
14 as soon see you get rid of that when it runs out. Of
15 course, if that were a wilderness designation, that
16 would go away anyhow.

17 You might want to consider the larger pro-
18 posal of the Committee for Idaho Site Desert. I think
19 their proposal is for about 25,000 acres, which would
20 include some of the plateau areas, which would qualify
21 for wilderness along with the canyon.

22 Box Creek, over on the Payette Forest, is
23 part of the Seesash roadless area, quite a large road-
24 less area on the forest. And, in fact, that's part of
25 a larger proposal for conservationists for 440,000 acre

14

1 Payette Crest Wilderness. Again, it is in the Moody -
2 Kostmayer Bill. It's a neat area, rugged forest. It's
3 got a lot of habitat diversity, important for elk
4 calving, trout. Red banded trout, a sensitive species,
5 are there, and that area needs to be protected. And I
6 am disturbed by a proposal by BLM to log it and put a
7 road in there and allow a hydropower project to go in
8 with an access road. These should not be allowed. This
9 area should be protected. So I strongly urge wilderness
10 recommendation for Box Creek.

11 Similarly for Goldburg. We've been working
12 to get the Lemhi designated as wilderness, and it should
13 be. It's got high wildlife values and high recreational
14 values, seed values, and all the rest. Goldburg is an
15 important part of it. It's important for elk, antelope,
16 and other wild species. Again, the BLM proposes their
17 talks about logging this area, and that's just not
18 acceptable. That area should remain the way it is.

19 Boulder Creek also should definitely be
20 proposed for wilderness. As you walk up Little Boulder
21 Creek, you go through the first mile or two, mile and a
22 half, I think it is BLM. You can't tell the difference.
23 It's all part of the same roadless area. It's ecolo-
24 gically different because it's dry and there aren't any
25 trees until you get up a ways, but it's part of that

15

1 wilderness, that roadless area.

2 I understand, according to the EIS, there is
3 a pending oil lease and gas exploration lease there, and
4 I urge that be denied and this area be recommended for
5 wilderness. These areas are not only part of the
6 national forest roadless areas, they're also existing
7 wilderness. They're physically wilderness now. We're
8 not talking about making wilderness. Man cannot make
9 wilderness. He can only save it. And I urge that we
10 do that. There are so many destructive forces now in
11 the human species. We've become very destructive, and
12 we have to counter that, because there isn't a whole lot
13 of wild earth left anymore.

14 Sin has been in the news a lot lately. I'm
15 not an expert on it, I guess, and it's a subjective
16 topic, but let me tell you what I think the greatest
17 sin is for our species as a whole. I think, at least in our
18 industrialized developed nation, developing nations, and
19 over developed nations like the United States and Japan,
20 I think our greatest sin is the destruction of biological
21 diversity and the destruction of wilderness, and I think
22 it's high time we recognized that and took pains to try
23 to reverse that trend before our wilderness is all gone.
24 And I urge you to recommend wilderness for all these
25 areas with the exception of Black Butte, which probably

16

1 does not qualify.

2 Thank you.

3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Jaynes.
4 Steve Janes?

5 MR. JANES: I'm Steve Janes with the Blue
6 Ribbon Coalition, 520 Park Avenue, Idaho Falls. We've
7 been quite encouraged with the EIS proposal for the BLM.
8 It's good to see agencies take a responsibility for land
9 management, and with the proposals here, we feel that
10 you've done a very good job in this study, researching
11 it, and making the proper decisions on it.

12 We tend to find it hard to swallow when people
13 want to put a designation on land base and, in essence,
14 make management by nonmanagement. We find it tough
15 anytime you put something under that designation as
16 wilderness, under the mentality of the 1950's, when we
17 developed so much more in our understanding of our
18 natural resources. And anytime we lock land up with
19 legislation basically prepared in the 1950's, we just
20 find it hard to swallow, and we're comfortable with what
21 the BLM has proposed here and the fact that you're willing
22 to manage and take care of the land as you have been
23 deemed it, and that's it.

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Janes.
25 Is there anyone else that would care to make

17

1 a statement at this time?

2 Then I would like to thank all of you for your
3 attendance and the input, and the hearing is now closed.

4 (The hearing was adjourned.)

5 * * *

18

REPORTER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF IDAHO)
) ss.
County of Bonneville)

I, KAREN KONVALINKA, do hereby certify that
I am an Official Certified Shorthand Reporter and a
Notary Public in and for the State of Idaho;

That I took down the proceedings aforesaid at
the time and place therein named and thereafter reduced
the same to typewriting under my direction and control.

I further certify that I have no interest in
the event of the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this the 29th day
of February, 1988.

(Signature)

Karen Konvalinka
Karen Konvalinka, C. S. R.,
Notary Public in and for the
State of Idaho, residing at
Idaho Falls, Idaho.

(Seal)

My commission expires: Perpetual

19 REPORTER'S AFFIDAVIT

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RE: Proposed Plan Amendments)
and Environmental Impact)
Statement for)
Small Wilderness Study)
Areas Statewide (DRAFT))

BEFORE

GEORGE NELSON
Hearing Officer

Date: February 24, 1988
7:00 p.m.

Place: Boise Public Library
715 S. Capital Boulevard
Boise, Idaho

ORIGINAL

The Court Reporters
TUCKER & ASSOCIATES
605 West Fort Street, Boise, Idaho 83702
(208) 345-3704

A P P E A R A N C E S

GEIER, Dick	Area Manager
MINCKLER, Fred	Environmental Specialist
NELSON, George	State Wilderness Coordinator
WYKE, Gary	State Planning Coordinator

I N D E X

Testimony	Page
CROWLEY, Janet	10
BENNETT, George	12
LEESON, Jane	13
ALLEN, Edwina	19
HOLMBERG, Patricia	21
VANHOOVER, Lois	24
WARD, Janet	25
HAUSRATH, Allen	32
STOUT, Jim Sr.	35
JACOBSEN, Rayola	37
SMITH, Jim	39
MORRIS, Randall	41

BOISE, IDAHO

Wednesday, February 24, 1988, 7:00 p.m.

MR. NELSON: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I am George Nelson, the state wilderness coordinator in the Idaho state office, Boise, Idaho. I have been appointed by the Idaho state director of the Bureau of Land Management to conduct this public hearing under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior.

This hearing is being conducted to comply with Section 3-D of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments from all interested parties concerning the wilderness study recommendations contained in the draft Idaho wilderness environmental impact statement. In a moment I'll call upon a BLM representative to summarize the findings of this wilderness study.

The purpose of this hearing centers on two issues. First, are these wilderness study areas suitable or not suitable for designation as wilderness? Your views, and any information you can offer with respect to this question, will be greatly appreciated.

Second, is the environmental impact statement adequate? Your substantive comments and suggestions for improvement in regards to this aspect

of the study will also be appreciated. I would like now to explain the procedures and ground rules which we will be following during the hearing.

The official reporter seated on my right is Jeanne Hirmer. She will prepare a verbatim transcript of everything that is said during this hearing. If you wish to obtain a copy of the transcript, you should make your own arrangements with the reporter.

We will receive oral comments from those persons wishing to make a comment. Cards have been provided at the door for those desiring to make a presentation. If you wish to make a presentation and have not yet filled out a card, please do so now. Print your full name, address and your affiliation, if any. When these are collected we will proceed.

At this time I would like to call upon Gary Wyke, planning coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management for Idaho, to summarize the preliminary findings of the wilderness study.

MR. WYKE: Thank you, George. I'm going to briefly summarize the wilderness review process to put this meeting tonight in context, so you see where we are with that process.

Then I'm going to briefly summarize the EIS we're here to talk about tonight. And then I will tell

you what we do with the comments you give us tonight, plus any written comments we get before the end of the comment period. We will be receiving written comments on this document until April 28, and so tonight's not the only opportunity to tell us what you think about the proposals or about the EIS. The address I put on the wall over there: BLM Idaho State Office, 3380 Americana Terrace, 83706 is where you should send any written comments, again by April 28.

The wilderness review process is divided into three phases. The first phase was the inventory phase that we completed back in Idaho in 1982. During that phase we looked at all the public lands that seemed to have the characteristics of wilderness as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964. These became wilderness study areas.

And then during the study phase we looked at each of these areas, we looked at the resources in those study areas, looked at the demands on the resources and the wilderness qualities that are in those study areas. It is the study phase we're in tonight with this -- these nine small study areas we're talking about.

After the study phase is complete, we send the recommendations from Idaho to our Washington

office. They get sent through the Secretary of Interior to the president and then to Congress. It is Congress, of course, that acts on these recommendations ultimately and they make the decision. We don't make decisions about wilderness here. What we have are recommendations.

What we're looking at tonight are draft recommendations. Just to briefly summarize these nine study areas we're looking at tonight -- you're not going to be able to see them on this map, unfortunately, but I'll have it up here in front after the hearing so you can come up and take a look at it if you want. They are scattered pretty much across the southern part of the state.

What these all have in common is they're under 5,000 acres. This is different from all the other wilderness areas we have been looking at to date. We have completed so far ten other EIS's on other wilderness study areas. The nine that we're looking at tonight were dropped out of the study process by Secretary Watt back in 1982, when he dropped all of the less than 5,000 acre wilderness study areas that had been identified under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

That decision of his was challenged in

1 court and the judge gave them back to us and said, "You
2 need to reconsider that decision." By that time the
3 Secretary of Interior had changed. It was now
4 Donald Hodel, And he decided to go ahead and take these
5 through the wilderness review process. So that's why
6 we have these nine small areas that are being
7 considered in one document.

8 The Box Creek wilderness study area is just
9 up north of McCall, it's 440 acres. We have
10 recommended it nonsuitable in the draft EIS. It's
11 adjacent to the Forest Service Secesh roadless area.
12 They have not yet distributed their final plan, but we
13 understand their recommendation is that the land
14 adjoining this study area will be managed for motorized
15 primitive recreation, as well as some other uses. We
16 didn't feel that the 440-acre study area was going to
17 stand on its own as a wilderness. So that
18 recommendation is that it's nonsuitable.

19 The Lower Salmon Falls Creek study area
20 down here is a 3,500-acre study area we have also
21 recommended nonsuitable. It's in a canyon. It's
22 narrow configuration. There is limited access into it.
23 This tends to congregate people in small areas which
24 detracts from the opportunity for a primitive and
25 solitary-type wilderness experience.

1 The Henry's Lake WSA over here in the
2 eastern part of the state is 350 acres. We have
3 recommended 340 acres of that suitable for wilderness
4 designation, in conjunction with the Forest
5 Service-proposed Lion's Head wilderness area. Ten
6 acres we recommended nonsuitable because they
7 practically surround some private homesites there and
8 would be awkward at best to try to manage those as
9 wilderness.

10 The 40-acre wilderness study area, Worm
11 Creek down here by Bear Lake, is adjacent to the
12 Forest Service-proposed Worm Creek wilderness, and we
13 have recommend that suitable in conjunction with the
14 Forest Service recommendation.

15 The Goldburg wilderness study area is 3,290
16 acres. We have recommended that nonsuitable. The
17 Forest Service has their recommendation on the North
18 Lemhi roadless area; was nonsuitable. We didn't feel
19 that the Goldburg study area would qualify as
20 wilderness by itself.

21 The Boulder Creek study area we have also
22 recommended nonsuitable. Basically the same reason
23 there, it's adjacent to the Boulder White Clouds
24 roadless area of the Forest Service and they
25 recommended that nonsuitable.

1 The Borah Peak study area is recommended as
2 suitable. Besides the study area we have recommended
3 an additional 780 acres for a total of 3,880 acres of
4 Borah Peak, which would be suitable in conjunction with
5 the Forest Service-Borah Peak proposed wilderness.

6 Black Butte study area here north of
7 Shoshone we have recommended nonsuitable. It has slab
8 lava mining occurring in it under the 1872 Mining Law.
9 And the mining of the lava leaves the study area
10 looking less than natural. It's very evident where the
11 top surface lava has been removed. And we didn't feel
12 it could be managed as a natural-appearing area.

13 The Little Wood River study area right in
14 here is on the southern end of the Forest Service
15 proposed Pioneer wilderness area, and we have
16 recommended it suitable.

17 What we will do with the testimony we get
18 tonight is give it to the people who wrote the EIS and
19 to the line managers who make the final recommendations
20 as to whether a study area is suitable or nonsuitable.
21 Your comments will be reviewed in as far as they raise
22 questions about the quality of the EIS or give us new
23 information or indicate that we have gone astray
24 somehow or made a misstatement. We respond to them in
25 the final EIS.

1 They will all be considered in the final
2 decision-making as far as -- I shouldn't use the word
3 "decision." It's a decision as to a recommendation
4 that will be used in reaching a final recommendation.
5 With that, I would like to turn it back to the Hearing
6 Officer, Mr. Nelson, to get the testimony started.

7 MR. NELSON: Thank you, Gary. Presentation of
8 oral statements will be limited to ten minutes. I urge
9 you to please cooperate with this time limit so that
10 everyone will have the opportunity to speak. I will
11 let you know when you have one minute left so that you
12 will have time to sum up your testimony.

13 If we have additional time at the end of
14 the hearing, we will allow those whose testimony was
15 cut short due to the time limit, to complete their
16 statement. Persons making a statement must first be
17 recognized by me. They will then come up here to the
18 lectern and identify themselves and their affiliation,
19 if any.

20 Since the hearing is being recorded, we
21 cannot have more than one person speaking at a time.
22 This hearing is not the only opportunity the public has
23 to comment on the wilderness proposals or the EIS.
24 Written comments may be submitted to the address we
25 have up here on the board: BLM State Office, 3380

Americana Terrace, Boise, Idaho 83706. We will receive testimony until April 28, 1988.

If you wish to receive a copy of the final EIS and are not already on our mailing list, please leave your name on the sign-in sheets we have in the back and identify that you do need a final EIS. If you have already received a copy of the draft EIS in the mail you are already on our list.

I would like to point out one other ground rule before we start. This hearing is not a debate, a trial, or a question and answer situation. It is an advisory hearing, and all interested persons may present statements pertinent to the wilderness study we are considering today. There will be no cross examination from the audience. A clarifying statement may be directed to me by the BLM representatives sitting on my right: Mr. Dick Geier, Mr. Fred Minckler or Mr. Gary Wyke, and I will determine whether it is pertinent.

This may seem overly formal to you, but it is intended to give everyone a fair and reasonable opportunity to present his or her views. One final point: This is a public meeting and state law prohibits smoking in a public place. Please refrain

from smoking. At this time I would like to call on the speakers in the order that they signed in. Again, as a reminder, please give full name and affiliation if any. Janet Crowley.

MS. CROWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Nelson. I'm Janet O. Crowley, chairman of the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, and my statement is very brief. I applaud the decision of the document team in recommending Henry's Lake, Worm Creek, Little Wood and the Borah Peak. And as far as Black Butte is concerned, that is a sad case where deleterious activities took place, and obviously it is not a wilderness quality anymore. And there is nothing else that I see that you could have done with that one.

I would like to take issue with your decisions on Box Creek. More or less the same comment applies to all four of the following areas: First of all, it seems to me your reasoning is tortured. Either a place is not recommended because the Forest Service is not recommending an adjacent area, or even though there may be no conflict, you are saying that it is either too small and that it won't accommodate enough people, or you're saying other things which do not really disqualify a place for wilderness recommendation by the rules that I understand to be in force.

Specifically, in Box Creek it is cited that there is a timber conflict and in the adjacent area there would be an off-road vehicle conflict. I do not understand that an off-site conflict like that does disqualify even though it's a small area. And as for the timber conflict, I can't believe that 440 acres which are so important to the other resources there could not be spared from timbering when all the other qualifications are present: the wildlife, the fish, the water quality, riparian qualities are all excellent.

To go to Salmon Falls I would apply the same two objections. I find that the reasoning is tortured to say that because it is a narrow corridor and up to this time has not suffered from deterioration of the wilderness qualities that therefore it should not be recommended as wilderness now. I think that the fact that these qualities have survived, with fairly heavy use from the Twin Falls and adjacent areas, is proof that they do have a resilience. And if they have survived to now and there are no resource conflicts, I cannot believe that this does not deserve to be recommended as wilderness and protected as such.

As far as the Goldburg WSA, I see no contraindications there. And besides that, I see a

strong indication that that water course does need to be protected in its present condition in order to protect the areas below. And it is an important fishery. It feeds into an important fishery. And as much money as we're spending in the western United States now to protect anadromous fisheries, I do not see why this small area could not be added as a protective zone around the head watch.

To proceed to the Boulder Creek WSA, I don't see any conflicts there, and its only shortcoming seems to be it's contiguous and it's guilty by association with a Forest Service area that you think may not be recommended. I don't think that it's correct to dis-recommend an area when a decision by the Forest Service has not been made and when all the other indications are positive. Thank you very much.

MR. NELSON: Mr. George Bennett.

MR. BENNETT: I'm George A. Bennett. I'm representing the Idaho Hunters Association. Mailing address is P.O. 7431, Boise, Idaho 83707. We reserve the right and will be providing you with written comments on behalf of the Hunters Association. I'll make my comments very brief.

The Idaho Hunters Association desires absolutely no more wilderness on BLM lands. We do

1 concur with all the recommendations for nonwilderness
2 contained in the draft EIS. We question the rationale
3 of your wilderness recommendations where these occur
4 next to roadless areas or Forest Service-recommended
5 wilderness areas.

6 The Forest Service recommendations have not
7 been implemented. The roadless areas are subject to
8 withdrawal. Therefore, it seems inappropriate at this
9 time that we make a decision for wilderness next to
10 roadless areas. We challenge all references to the
11 gray wolf in the draft EIS. The gray wolf recovery
12 plan is a plan that has not been properly processed.
13 Secretary Hodel and Frank Dunkle have not responded to
14 this date as to questions concerning guidance to be
15 provided other government agencies on implementation of
16 that plan.

17 The gray wolf plan has not been subjected
18 as yet to public hearings, and at this point it is
19 without effect. Therefore we feel any references to
20 the gray wolf in the EIS should be deleted.

21 Further, the Idaho Hunters Association
22 recommends and believes that the BLM should revert to
23 the status of December 30, 1982 and the secretarial
24 order that was in effect at that time. Thank you.

25 MR. NELSON: Ms. Leeson.

B2.1

1 MS. LEESON: I'm Jane Leeson. I'm a staff
2 person with the Wilderness Society located here in
3 Boise. The Wilderness Society is a private nonprofit
4 conservation organization of 212,000 people with 900
5 members here in Idaho.

6 Our vision now is the preservation and wise
7 management of public lands and the resources
8 therein. It is on behalf of those members that I speak
9 here tonight in regard of the small wilderness study
10 area draft EIS.

11 The Henry's Lake wilderness study area is a
12 small but very important part of the whole that makes
13 up the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. The 350-acre
14 tract is bounded on two sides by Lion's Head
15 wilderness, and as such it is an important part of
16 wildlife habitat, watershed, and Situation 1 grizzly
17 bear habitat.

18 We support the 340-acre recommendation for
19 wilderness in this WSA, but without confirmation for a
20 greater value exchange, we cannot support the 10-acre
21 exclusion in the southeastern part of WSA. Even these
22 ten acres provide critical habitat that is being
23 increasingly encroached upon by human activity.

24 Unless the BLM can justify the exclusion,
25 we would have to oppose the ten acres that would not be

1 protected by wilderness. We fully support the
2 Borah Peak wilderness recommendation. It is a pristine
3 and extraordinary resource value. It supports 1,000
4 antelope and 400 mule deer. Its wild and scenic values
5 are a great resource to the American people, and we
6 applaud your recommendation for wilderness in this wild
7 part of America.

8 We also there fully support the BLM's
9 recommendation for Worm Creek WSA. The area is one of
10 open benchland and steep hillside and dense aspen
11 stands. It's a very small but important part of the
12 larger RARE II Worm Creek area, and it complements the
13 steeper and more more forested parts of that particular
14 acreage.

15 We disagree with your position on
16 Box Creek. Although the parcel is only 440 acres, it
17 is an unfenced versus forest plot that is critical to
18 elk calving, and it has an excellent fishery and
19 supports a number of other very critical wildlife
20 species.

21 The surrounding lands are not recommended
22 for wilderness by other federal agencies, but they are
23 recommended for protectionist wilderness by
24 conservationists and, in fact, are included in current
25 wilderness legislation before the U. S. Congress.

B3.1

1 In the future these 440 acres will become
2 increasingly important as an island for -- and security
3 for wildlife that they may not be able to find in the
4 surrounding acreages as those acres become logged and
5 roaded.

6 Additionally, there is no justification
7 that, in fact, the hydroelectric plant, that is plant
8 or the developer wishes it will go forth, is necessary
9 to the public. The 3,000 feet 50 foot wide penstock
10 that would be buried within this WSA does not
11 necessarily benefit the public. There was no economic
12 justification for excluding these acres to devote this
13 land to the logging operations and hydroelectric
14 generation.

15 The Wilderness Society supports wilderness
16 protection for the full 440 acres of this area. Lower
17 Salmon Falls Canyon in southern Idaho is an
18 extraordinary canyon. It supports no less than seven
19 species of raptors, 65 other species of birds,
20 20 species of mammals, 65 types of plants. It is a
21 unique area, part of Idaho that should be protected as
22 wilderness.

23 The 3,500 acres are surrounded by a larger
24 area of outstanding natural opportunities and, in fact,
25 we support a 25,000-acre wilderness in that particular

1 area. The canyon itself deserves wilderness protection
2 and is 16 miles long, 300 to 600 feet deep. In some
3 cases up to a half a mile wide. Although there may be
4 concentrations of human activity, this is a very
5 special place of America. And the EIS did not provide
6 substantive rationalization for a perceived loss of
7 solitude as a reason for not justifying wilderness
8 protection.

9 Goldberg WSA of 3,200, almost 3,300 acres
10 is big enough to stand on its own. It, again, is a
11 crucial kind of habitat that is not protected
12 currently. It is a sagebrush and grassland type area
13 that is easily threatened by grazing. Currently
14 grazing is causing degradation in riparian areas as
15 well as the fisheries. Without wilderness protection
16 we cannot be assured that further management will not
17 be driven by livestock needs.

18 The wildlife habitat in this area is
19 critical. It provides important winter and summer
20 habitat for large herds of deer and antelope. It's an
21 essential part of that ecosystem there. It far more
22 outweighs the problems that might arise from
23 manageability questions.

24 Boulder Creek wilderness study area is part
25 of the fabulous Boulder/White Clouds RARE II roadless

B3.2

1 area near the East Fork of the Salmon River. It is
2 part of the current wilderness legislation before
3 Congress and is part of the conservationists' proposal
4 for wilderness. The Boulder Creek WSA should be fully
5 protected by wilderness and is an extraordinary part of
6 America as are some of these other parts.

7 Idaho's abundance of these extraordinary
8 examples of our land do not justify disregard for
9 manageability problems. We must take a position and
10 support wilderness protection for these nearly 2,000
11 acres. Finally, the Little Wood River WSA, again, is
12 another very special part of Idaho. These 43 -- almost
13 4,300 acres are rugged, they're mountainous and provide
14 outstanding opportunities for solitude and other kinds
15 of recreation. Likewise, large herds of elk and deer
16 depend on this area year-round for their survival.

17 Currently, the riparian areas in this WSA
18 are degraded by grazing, and without wilderness
19 designation we cannot be assured the grazing levels
20 won't be increased. The failure of the BLM to protect
21 the wilderness values around Black Butte WSA must be
22 addressed. They cannot be ignored. Black Butte itself
23 is an inactive volcano of recent origin with a 200-foot
24 cone and a vent that reaches up to a half mile wide and
25 drops 200 feet down.

1 The crater is a harsh tumble of lava
2 benches, cliffs, jagged outcrops. It would have been
3 an extraordinary place for geologic study. The BLM did
4 not fulfill its obligation to protect this area. The
5 existing mining claims are preFLPMA and do, in fact,
6 have -- supersede interim management protection
7 regulations. However, they are constrained to not
8 create undue and unnecessary impacts on the area.

9 An illegal road was plowed into the area.
10 There was no trespass cited and the road was eventually
11 integrated into the plan of operation. The message was
12 clear to the public. This WSA is no longer appropriate
13 for wilderness protection. It is a message to the BLM
14 that they must do a better job and the public must do
15 something to reform the 1872 mining law.

16 In summary, the Wilderness Society supports
17 the wilderness recommendations for Borah Peak,
18 Little Wood River, Worm Creek WSA's. We support the
19 full acreage of Henry's Lake, Goldberg, Boulder and
20 Box Creek. And we support expanded wilderness for the
21 Lower Salmon Falls Creek. Thank you.

22 MR. NELSON: Ms. Edwina Allen.

23 MS. ALLEN: My name is Edwina Allen, I'm
24 speaking for myself. Idaho is a vast state with large
25 areas of public land. This does not diminish the value

1 of the small parcels we are today considering leaving
2 undisturbed for the future. Values such as fish and
3 wildlife habitat and opportunities for quiet recreation
4 can occur in small areas.

5 I applaud the Bureau of Land Management for
6 finding Henry's Lake, Little Wood River, Worm Creek and
7 Borah Peak with, with additions, suitable for
8 wilderness. I urge you to reconsider your
9 recommendations for Box Creek, Lower Salmon Falls,
10 Goldberg and Boulder Creek.

11 Box Creek contains a pristine stream with
12 significant populations of trout, as well as elk
13 calving grounds and deer habitat. This little piece of
14 the earth deserves a better fate than to be messed up
15 with yet another small hydroelectric project and have
16 trees cut down with a below-cost timber sale on steep
17 slopes.

18 The Forest Service should designâte
19 Box Creek upstream and Box Lake all as wilderness.
20 This is a great opportunity for us to have an easily
21 accessible, close-to-civilization wilderness area.

22 Lower Salmon Falls Creek lies within a much
23 larger wilderness proposal by the Committee for Idaho's
24 High Desert. Its 600-foot cliffs assure a fine
25 wilderness experience. A great variety of plants and

1 animals make a home here, and the many cultural sites
2 attest to the fact that man too has lived here.

3 Goldberg has not been included by the BLM
4 because the Forest Service did not recommend the North
5 Lemhi for wilderness. This is a bit of a
6 chicken-and-egg problem. The BLM should take the lead
7 and recommend Goldberg for wilderness, and challenge
8 the Forest Service to follow suit. It is an important
9 remnant of the Pahsimeroi Valley ecosystem.

10 Boulder Creek is included in the
11 conservationists' Idaho Wilderness Bill, which has been
12 introduced in Congress. The value of the Boulder/White
13 Clouds as wilderness is nationally recognized, and
14 Boulder Creek with its anadromous fish habitat and
15 surrounding big game range is an important component.

16 Thank you for giving me this opportunity to
17 share my thoughts with you.

18 MR. NELSON: Patricia Holmberg.

19 MS. HOLMBERG: Thank you, Mr. Crowley (sic). I
20 represent the Independent Miners Association of Idaho.

21 MR. NELSON: Would you give your name and
22 address.

23 MS. HOLMBERG: I'm sorry. My name is
24 Patricia Holmberg. My address is Post Office
25 Box 7042, Boise, Idaho, 83707-1042. And as I said, I

1 represent the Independent Miners Association of Idaho.
2 We stand firm on the grounds that we would choose to
3 have no more wilderness in the state of Idaho. We feel
4 that the amount of wilderness that is already in
5 existence is ample to protect any natural environment
6 that needs to be protected. And I would like to remind
7 you that the state of Idaho received its birth because
8 of the mining industry and the mining discoveries in
9 the state.

10 Also, as you all know, that the protections
11 that we have under the mining laws of 1872 are
12 protected under the Wilderness Act. And those claims
13 that are already in existence, be they valid claims,
14 are continued, and the mining is a recognized effort.

15 We also are aware that the regulations are
16 in place and any good miner worth their salt does not
17 tear up the environment. I am especially against any
18 wilderness in the Box Creek area. I find that within
19 just not very many miles of there, there are two mines,
20 both producing, that provide employment for 250 people
21 who live in the state of Idaho. And last year in one
22 quarter of operation put over 50 million dollars into
23 the economy in the state of Idaho.

24 And a lot of people don't think economy is
25 important, but I think we have to find a level between

1 economy and ecology. One problem we have is prior
2 wilderness acts have given us the rights under the 1872
3 mining laws to maintain our mining claims. But we are
4 finding that federal agencies are blowing up our
5 bridges and tearing out our roads and refusing access
6 even prior to a validity question being answered. So
7 we're quite unhappy with that facet.

8 With the increase in mining in the state of
9 Idaho right now we have three other mines in northern
10 Idaho which will open next year which will also produce
11 working families living in the state of Idaho. And
12 also our schedule to produce about the same amount of
13 funds, so we're talking about 125 million dollars every
14 three months they can mine that's coming into the state
15 of Idaho, and all the people working and all of their
16 supporting facilities.

17 In the northern part of the state of Nevada
18 the mining upsurge has been tremendous. And although
19 in some of the areas that you have proposed there are
20 not, at the present time, any mining claims, we feel
21 it's only a matter of time before there are. And we
22 believe mining can be done with the environment kept in
23 mind. And we believe it can be done properly and
24 within your regulations.

25 In the state of Idaho alone right now there

1 are 78,000 mining claims. There are over 15,000
2 individuals who hold those mining claims. And as an
3 independent miner I stand here and make the statement
4 that there has never been in the history of continental
5 United States a mine that has produced jobs and has
6 produced money into the economy that has not been
7 discovered by a lone, little old, single, independent
8 miner who discovered it, who developed it, and who then
9 later sold it to a major corporation to do so.

10 And I stand very firmly behind Mr. Bennett
11 over there on the subject of the gray wolf. It has not
12 been approved under NEPA. It is a subject we have
13 challenged on all the forest plans that have come out
14 in the state. We will continue to challenge it and we
15 will challenge it in any BLM publication that comes out
16 as well. Thank you.

17 MR. NELSON: Lois Vanhoover.

18 MS. VANHOOVER: I'm Lois Vanhoover. My
19 permanent address is Box 18, Yellow Pine, Idaho, 83611.
20 My Boise address is 12010 West Camas, Boise, 83709.
21 I'm secretary and treasurer with the Independent Miners
22 Association, and I also speak for myself and I speak
23 from my heart. I stand very strongly against no more
24 wilderness within the state.

25 I don't know how much more Idaho has to

1 give. Agriculture is our major industry in the state.
2 We have only three million irrigated acres. But we
3 have 20 million acres of federal ground. The state is
4 less than 20 percent owned by private individuals. Our
5 economy, our state governments, our local governments
6 cannot handle any more wilderness.

7 We need good, reasonable, multiple use of
8 our natural resources. And I take a stance also
9 against any verbiage of the gray wolf. Maybe in your
10 study you should study one other endangered species:
11 People who live and work within the boundaries of our
12 federal ground. Thank you.

13 MR. NELSON: Ms. Janet Ward.

14 MS. WARD: I am Janet Ward. I live at 1910
15 Manitou, Boise, Idaho, 83706. I would like to thank
16 you for the opportunity to present my views, which I'm
17 doing as an individual.

18 I have a couple of comments. I support --
19 I would like to tell you why I'm here. I started
20 bird-dogging across BLM wilderness process (phonetic)
21 back in 1976. And my husband and I have hiked a lot of
22 the area. We have looked at a lot of maps. We
23 submitted testimony for the last 12 years, and it's
24 become sort of a personal point of pride. We hope we
25 will live until 1991 when we can say "Amen," and we

1 have finished it. Until then we're hanging in there.

2 Okay. On Henry's Lake, Worm Creek,
3 Borah Peak, Little Wood we support your
4 recommendations. They will be fine additions. We need
5 to keep in mind Goldburg and Boulder Creek because they
6 are contiguous areas to areas that are being considered
7 for wilderness. Don't shut your options now.

8 Especially Boulder Creek, since it's mentioned in the
9 "Cosmeier Bill" which is before Congress at present.

10 One comment on Box Creek. I don't need to
11 remind you as federal managers, federal agency, that
12 you are under law mandated to preserve the habitat for
13 all endangered species. And the gray wolf is an
14 endangered species. Therefore, it is only right and
15 proper that you include the gray wolf in your
16 environmental impact statement. You are required to do
17 so.

18 I really would like to protest Little
19 Salmon Falls. I cannot tell you how angry I was -- as
20 an individual I can tell you, "I resent this. I'm
21 angry about that and so on." I cannot tell you how
22 angry I was when I read on page 8 that this had
23 marginal wilderness quality. I thought, "Oh, creeps,
24 guys, come off it!" Because in 1978 I protested Little
25 Salmon Falls, and we went round and round about Little

1 Salmon Falls.

2 Your initial wilderness inventory
3 eliminated all those lands clearly not suitable for
4 wilderness. The fine young men in the Boise district
5 who were doing the intensive wilderness inventory made
6 very sure that whatever survived the intensive
7 wilderness inventory in 1980 were purer than pure
8 lands. All of them met wilderness classification. All
9 of them met all of the wilderness requirements.

10 We went round and round and round because
11 areas were eliminated from future wilderness
12 consideration in 1979/1980 because of drift (phonetic)
13 fences, because of crusted wheatgrass planting, because
14 of two-lane dirt roads, because of roads that had been
15 plowed in by a bulldozer with its engine still warm
16 when the wilderness inventory man got there.

17 So anything that survived your intensive
18 wilderness inventory in 1980 was really quality
19 wilderness material suitable for wilderness
20 designation. One of those was Little Salmon Falls.

21 I would applaud you for your honesty,
22 because you managed to refute your own argument on
23 page 8 which you say -- and I'll quote on page 8 --
24 "Lower Salmon Falls Creek" -- "marginal wilderness
25 quality governs the no wilderness recommendation."

1 offers opportunities for solitude. The quality of
2 solitude is somewhat diminished due to the narrow
3 corridor of use --" If you're going to say that, you
4 had better say how many visitor days are in there,
5 because there are so few. "The length of the canyon
6 tends to minimize this effect."

7 Essentially what you have said is that
8 there is no compelling reason not to have Little Salmon
9 Falls Creek a wilderness area. It is outstanding. It
10 meets all wilderness criteria. It has very unique
11 special features.

12 What you have essentially said is the
13 reason you are not recommending that area for
14 wilderness is that you are managing it as an
15 outstanding natural area, and you have charts and
16 graphs which assure us that under an outstanding
17 natural area management it will be just the same as
18 wilderness.

19 I do not feel that way. For one thing, an
20 outstanding natural area is an administrative decision.
21 And I have heard rumors it is something that the BLM is
22 going to disregard soon in favor of the ACEC, Areas of
23 Critical Environmental Concern. So, in other words,
24 this is not firm. This is by administrative caprice.

25 I would like the area protected by act of

B7.2

1 Congress as designated wilderness. I think you need to
2 expand the wilderness boundaries to coincide with the
3 outstanding natural area boundaries that you have in
4 place now.

5 I cannot tell you how angry I am about
6 Black Butte. Along about 1978 I protested Black Butte.
7 I said, "Look, look, it's lava; right? You go out
8 here, anywhere out here, and find lava. I can go out
9 anywhere and find lava. It's lava!" And the BLM said,
10 "Oh, no. This is special lava. Really special lava.
11 And I said, "Really?" And they said, "Oh, really."

12 I don't think you can hide behind the
13 mining law about what happened to Black Butte. The BLM
14 made an administrative decision that it would sacrifice
15 The Black Butte wilderness study area. I applaud you
16 for your honesty because you said so on page 45. I'll
17 read about the middle of page 45: "The location of
18 mining claims on common variety minerals --" such as
19 lava -- "is prohibited by law unless the material has
20 special properties with economic value that allows
21 classification of the material as a locatable mineral."

22 Now, you had a common pit there before and
23 that's how come you got such a mess on Black Butte is
24 you just had a common pit. People could go pick up
25 what they wanted and so on. In 1978 you had the

1 placer mines. "BLM began a preliminary market study
2 and claim validity investigation to determine whether
3 the Black Butte lava rock should be classified as a
4 salable or locatable --"

5 You classified it as salable, locatable,
6 and then allowed the mine. You didn't have to have the
7 mine in there. You could have cited the road as
8 trespass. Black Butte is a tragedy and a monument to
9 your inability to manage the land, and I'm very angry
10 about it! And I hope you can underline all that and
11 put in exclamation points so that anyone who reads that
12 will get five exclamation points.

13 What else can I say? You have done a great
14 job on the EIS. You have been very honest on
15 Black Butte and Lower Salmon Falls, and I thank you.

16 MR. NELSON: I see some more activity wanting to
17 go ahead and sign up and make statements. Again, let
18 me remind you, if anyone would like to make a statement
19 at this hearing, please sign the card in the back and
20 we will take your name.

21 In all due respect to those who are giving
22 testimony, I ask that you keep your side comments to a
23 minimum and movement in the hearing room to a minimum
24 also. If you do want to make comments please sign the
25 cards in the back. Mr. Jim Smith?

1 MR. SMITH: Could I pass for a minute?

2 MR. NELSON: Do you wish to make a statement
3 later?

4 MR. SMITH: Yes.

5 MR. NELSON: Mr. Daniels?

6 VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE: I think he left the
7 room for a minute.

8 MR. NELSON: Mr. Allen Hausrath?

9 MR. HAUSRATH: I won't be invalidating
10 Mr. Daniels' right to testify by standing up to talk
11 now, will I?

12 MR. NELSON: We'll call the ones that aren't
13 here now.

14 MR. HAUSRATH: My name is Allen Hausrath. I
15 reside here in Boise. I'm the president of the Idaho
16 Environmental Council. My testimony tonight represents
17 the position of the council and its board of directors.

18 Basically, I'll keep this short and hand
19 you a written statement when I'm done. It's a pleasure
20 to be here tonight because this hearing represents one
21 of the steps back from the havoc wreaked on the public
22 lands during James Watt's tenure as Secretary of the
23 Interior. As you told us at the beginning of this
24 meeting, in 1982 Mr. Watt, in violation of relevant
25 law, caused all BLM wilderness study areas of less than

1 5,000 acres in size to be dropped from the wilderness
2 study process.

3 The purpose of the Draft Environmental
4 Impact Statement under consideration tonight is to
5 correct that illegal action. I hope in the near future
6 to see further steps to correct the mistakes and
7 misdeeds of Mr. Watt in particular and the current
8 administration in general.

9 Let me summarize the next couple
10 paragraphs. We support your wilderness recommendations
11 for the four areas where you make them; that is,
12 Henry's Lake, Worm Creek, Borah Peak and Little Wood
13 River. You have done, as Ms. Ward said, a good job on
14 the DEIS, and I believe it amply documents that they'll
15 make good additions to the wilderness system. We don't
16 endorse your nonwilderness recommendations except in
17 the one unavoidable instance of Black Butte.

18 I'm not going to lecture you about that. I
19 would like to direct a little bit of attention to Lower
20 Salmon Falls Creek. I think I have to agree with
21 Ms. Ward, when I read the DEIS. You make a better case
22 for wilderness there than for nonwilderness. And the
23 I.E.C. supports the designation of at least the entire
24 outstanding natural area, and perhaps more, as
25 wilderness.

1 The other areas: Box Creek, Goldburg,
2 Boulder Creek, are all adjacent to bigger Forest
3 Service areas. The Forest Service areas are proposed
4 for wilderness by the Idaho Wildlands Defense Coalition
5 whose proposal we endorse and, therefore, at the very
6 least, don't write them off too early before
7 legislation takes place. We do support them for
8 wilderness. We can't really afford to have any more of
9 these turned into Black Buttes.

10 I guess I should say a word in favor of the
11 wolf. I heard a lot of anti-wolf sentiment here
12 tonight. It is a threatened, endangered species. If
13 you believe that something is wolf habitat, I believe
14 you're legally bound to protect that habitat. That's
15 about it. Thank you very much for the opportunity to
16 testify.

17 MR. NELSON: Mr. Daniels?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. NELSON: Jim Stout, Sr.?

20 MR. STOUT: My name is Jim Stout, Sr. I'm
21 former secretary for the State of Idaho; former
22 secretary of the Old Prospectors Association of
23 America. I'm a member of the Lost Dutch (phonetic)
24 Mining Association, lifetime members of both.

25 I have heard a lot of comments in here

1 tonight by the wilderness people. A lot of comments by
2 your people that want to lock everybody out. But I
3 have not heard one word on the key major danger to any
4 area put into a wilderness. What did it cost last year
5 to fight the fire right up here at Deadwood? What did
6 it cost a few years ago to fight the fire in the
7 Sawtooth primitive area? What about the fire a few
8 years ago, 80,000 acres burned right up there in the
9 River of Lost -- of No Return Wilderness Area? Nobody
10 has spoke. They don't realize these fires are
11 expensive.

12 To me, a wilderness is not preservation.
13 Good management is preservation -- good management of
14 land. Because of wilderness land you can't take a
15 chain saw and cut a tree. You can't even take dynamite
16 in to blow a fire line. I have fought fires. They are
17 deadly. And not one word in this Environmental Impact
18 Statement covers what it would cost to put out a fire.
19 Also missing, there is no geological report. I have
20 not seen a geological report since the Sawtooth area.
21 This is part of the Environmental Impact Statement.
22 There is no geological report with this for the areas
23 you recommend.

24 Now, I agree Borah Peak is beautiful. How
25 do we know we're not burying \$10 million by locking it

B 9.1

B 9.2

1 up? We don't know until the geological reports are
2 made. And the geological reports for an area going
3 into wilderness should prove conclusively that that
4 area is pure wilderness. The wilderness law does read:
5 An area untouched by man.

6 "Untouched" means you haven't built a road,
7 you haven't had a cabin, you haven't built a dam, you
8 haven't built a bridge. But too many of these areas
9 they want to put in have got -- where man just went in.
10 In a fire, this grassland area -- I believe it's in the
11 Boulder Creek area -- if Boulder Creek burnt up they
12 can't take a CAT and drill in there and redrill that.
13 They can't do it at all. They have got to go in by
14 hand to do it.

15 Which is more expensive? Overplying it?
16 If you overply to reseed you have got to stay above
17 2500 foot from the ground. Otherwise, you're violating
18 -- you're in violation of law. You have got a
19 motorized engine inside that. Wilderness areas do not
20 create jobs. The miners create jobs, timber people
21 create jobs, and farmers create jobs, when they go
22 beyond the original law.

23 And then I have heard a lot tonight about
24 the road at Black Butte -- oh, boy. The law of 1872
25 and also a state law, in fact, Title 16, Chapter 2,

1 Mining Claims of State of Idaho, Section 478, section
2 on egress and ingress of actual settlers and
3 prospectors. It states that all persons living or
4 working in the national forests or other federal lands
5 shall have access to and from their home, their
6 property, their mines, such as wagon roads and other
7 improvements to be constructed on federal land or state
8 property.

9 It says nothing shall prohibit that person
10 from having that access. Yet when we put in a
11 wilderness area this is in direct violation right
12 there. It is a direct violation. And this law was
13 dated the 4th day of June 1897, Chapter 2,
14 Section 1, 30th statute of U. S. Code. Now, that is a
15 law, yet they're closing them. They're not true
16 wilderness areas, man has made improvements. I thank
17 you.

18 MR. NELSON: Rayola Jacobsen?

19 MS. JACOBSEN: Good evening. My name is
20 Rayola Jacobsen. I reside in Grand View, Idaho. I'm
21 temporarily employed by the Idaho Farm Bureau
22 Federation. My husband and I live nine miles
23 northwest of Grand View. We have a small cow/calf
24 operation and therefore we're employed by agriculture.

25 I'm speaking tonight representing the Idaho

Farm Bureau Federation as a 28,000-member family. Our policy is formed every year at a convention. This policy is brought up from individual members through the county's participating units to the state convention, and we do have a policy on wilderness and we do have a policy on gray wolf. Tonight I will only read our policy, give you a philosophical statement, and we will follow this with detailed written testimony.

The policy on endangered species is we do not believe grizzly bears, wolves, or caribou should be considered threatened or endangered species.

Therefore, we're opposed to the setting aside of any land as grizzly bear, wolf or caribou habitat.

Grizzly bear, wolves, or caribou should not be given priority over other uses in forest management plans.

And on our wilderness policy we oppose any additions of land to the wilderness and roadless areas, and will support efforts to reduce the amount of land in wilderness status in Idaho. We have a number of studies and surveys going underway which indicate to us, and to scientists who are studying this, that properly managed livestock grazing is beneficial to riparian areas. We take it rather personally when sometimes improper management and a shortage of water

in this drought time causes not only livestock but wildlife that congregate on riparian areas and cause great damage.

We have found if one cow is in an area and 50 deer that the cow takes the rap or the bad name for destroying or damaging the riparian areas. I'm afraid we're going to see further damage as the drought worsens. Our long-range weather forecast indicates we will continue into this drought possibly into '89. And the congregation of the wildlife on the remaining amount of water is going to be sad to see. We may see some loss before this is all over, in our wildlife. I thank you. If there are any questions?

MR. NELSON: Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: My name is Jim Smith. I represent myself, and also we have a new group that just formed last Friday which is called, I believe, Gray Wolf Wilderness Council. Address P.O. Box 1846, McCall, 83638. Myself, I have been traveling the backroads of Valley County since 1981. I came here from San Diego, California. I went to a town of Yellow Pine. I met a lot of people. I listened to their problems. I ate in their homes. I have seen a lot happen up here and I don't want to leave. I don't like the idea of a lot of tourists coming into the backcountry.

Because it seems to me that, looking to parks and forests in California, the most damage that is done is the so-called wilderness set of tourists -- tourism. I'm not against tourism per se. And I don't know -- I can't really speak intelligently about this whole book. I know a bit about Box Creek. There is a Box Creek area and I will try to stick to that subject.

This is one area of the backcountry that is well used by hikers, campers, fishermen. It fits the needs -- the area fits the needs of a lot of tourists. This particular area on Box Creek, I believe, is actually the divide between the North Fork of the Payette and Black Lee Creek on the other side of the ridge. It's bordered also by the Lake Creek Road that goes into Yellow Pine.

In some of this testimony I have heard tonight, I object to some of it. The Wilderness Society does not represent the public. I am part of that public. Our new organization will be in association with other already established organizations trying what I feel is to tell the truth about the wilderness, tell the truth about the people, tell the truth about the endangered species of -- not of wolf, but the actual pioneer that moved in there in the pioneering spirit.

And I feel that really Frank Church would turn over in his grave for what has been created, because it's a monster of paperwork for the BLM and for the Forest Service. And I really feel bad that they can't get away from their desks and go out and clear trails. I would like to see more. I don't have much more to say. I wasn't prepared for tonight. We're not together too much yet, but I believe we will have more to say in the future a little more intelligently. Thank you.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Dan Daniels?

(No response.)

MR. NELSON: Is there anyone else who would like to make a testimony at this time? Yes, Mr. Morris?

MR. MORRIS: I'm Randall Morris of Mountain Home. The record should note that we're here this evening to clean up a mess left by the Secretary of the Department of Interior early in this decade. These "Watt Droppings" as they have come to be known were contrary to the stated will of Congress, contrary to the will of the American public, and illegal as determined by the courts. Oh, that all the messes that were made of that era were as easy to clean up.

A dozen years ago when the BLM was given its organic code by Congress, as well as its wilderness

1 review mandate, many of us in the conservation
2 community felt that a new era had dawned on the half
3 billion acres of public lands administered by the BLM.
4 Little did we foresee the incredibly cheap coal leases,
5 property giveaways, and exploitation of the public
6 domain by a select few that were soon to follow.

7 I regret the disruption of orderly process,
8 and the muzzling of professional skills imposed on a
9 capable agency in those days. I offer the following
10 specific comments on the Idaho BLM Small Wilderness
11 Draft EIS.

12 (1) I, in general, support the BLM's Small
13 Wilderness recommendation for Worm Creek, Little Wood
14 River, Borah Peak and Henry's Lake. Please note I
15 support the Committee for Idaho's High Desert
16 Alternative BLM Wilderness Proposal for Idaho which
17 includes additional acreage for Little Wood River and
18 Borah Peak beyond the agency recommendation.

19 The DEIS does not clearly state the
20 rationale for disposing of the ten southern acres in
21 the Henry's Lake WSA. While admitting these would make
22 good recreational cabin sites for trading purposes, the
23 BLM fails to state the amount of non-WSA BLM lands in
24 Idaho which might be used for trading purposes. The
25 BLM administers nearly 12-million acres in Idaho, a

B12.1

1 minor fraction of which is in Wilderness Study Areas.
2 I cannot condone the use of WSA lands for "horse
3 trading."

4 (2) I object to the recommendation for
5 Box Creek and urge the BLM to propose wilderness for
6 this unit. It is incredible that the EIS lists this
7 scenic WSA as possessing habitat for trout, including
8 hard-pressed cutthroat and redband species, habitat for
9 both white-tail and mule deer, habitat for bear, and
10 likely habitat for bobcat, osprey, bald eagle, and the
11 endangered wolf, and yet the BLM recommends against
12 wilderness protection, and indeed, proposes road
13 construction for logging half of the WSA, and seems
14 resigned to allowing the construction of a messy,
15 unneeded hydro project. Who is protecting the public
16 interest?

17 (3) I strongly object to the lack of
18 wilderness recommendation for Lower Salmon Falls.
19 Access to this area is totally defined by 600-foot
20 cliffs. Similar barriers were used to justify a
21 minimal rim-to-rim wilderness recommendation in the
22 nearby Bruneau-Jarbridge WSA. The BLM's Salmon Falls
23 recommendation is inconsistent with previous
24 recommendations regarding manageability.

25 (4) I object to the non-suitable

1 recommendation for both Goldburg and Boulder Creek.
2 The primary reasons given for these recommendations is
3 the failure of the Forest Service to recommend adjacent
4 RARE II areas for wilderness. Is it any wonder why
5 wildlands are vanishing in the United States? Not only
6 does an area have a slim chance for protection under
7 the wilderness review process, each agency effectively
8 neutralizes protection for the other agency's adjacent
9 wildlands. Shame on the BLM if they trash these
10 important wildlife areas due to Forest Service
11 bullying.

12 (5) What can we say about Black Butte?
13 Only several years ago this was an essentially pristine
14 volcanic crater, so very, very accessible for public
15 enjoyment. Now it is trash. Who is protecting the
16 public interest? It sure isn't the BLM these days.

17 The great tragedy of these proceedings is
18 the BLM has no credibility left. Nor does the Forest
19 Service, or any of the other Interior agencies. A few
20 years back professional opinions presented by the
21 agencies were taken at face value by the conservation
22 community. Now housewives in Portland present research
23 that is more believable than the Fish and Wildlife
24 Service. Students are blowing over Park Service
25 studies on endangered species. Forest Service plans

1 are under multiple appeal throughout the Northern
2 Rockies. And the BLM, entrusted with a wilderness
3 study area, gives the public back rock quarries!
4 My God! How do you guys sleep at night?

5 MR. NELSON: Is there anyone else who would like
6 to give testimony at this time?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. NELSON: If not, I would like to enter into
9 the record of the hearing written testimony by
10 Ms. Allen and the Idaho Environmental Council.

11 If there are no more statements then, I
12 would thank all of you for your attendance at this
13 hearing, and the hearing is now formally closed.

14 If you wish to informally address some of
15 the BLM people here, we would entertain any
16 off-the-record comments and questions.

17 (The hearing concluded at 8:27 p.m.)

18 -ooo0ooo-

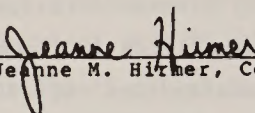
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jeanne M. Hirmer, an Idaho Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify:

That I'm the reporter who took the proceedings had in the above-entitled action in machine shorthand and thereafter the same was reduced into typewriting under my direct supervision; and

That the foregoing Reporter's Transcript contains a full, true, and accurate record of the proceedings had in the above and foregoing cause, which was heard at Boise, Idaho.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of March, 1988.


Jeanne M. Hirmer, Court Reporter

REFERENCES

Sandburg, Charles A., USGS, 1983. Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands, Idaho.

TERRADATA, 1983. Geology, Energy and Minerals (Gem) Resources Report for Antelope Pocket GRA, (ID-91.0-06SW) Twin Falls County.

USDA, 1985. Land and Resource Managment Plan for the Caribou National Forest and Curlew National Grassland.

USDA, 1988. Record of Decision for the Land and Resource Management Plan, Payette National Forest .

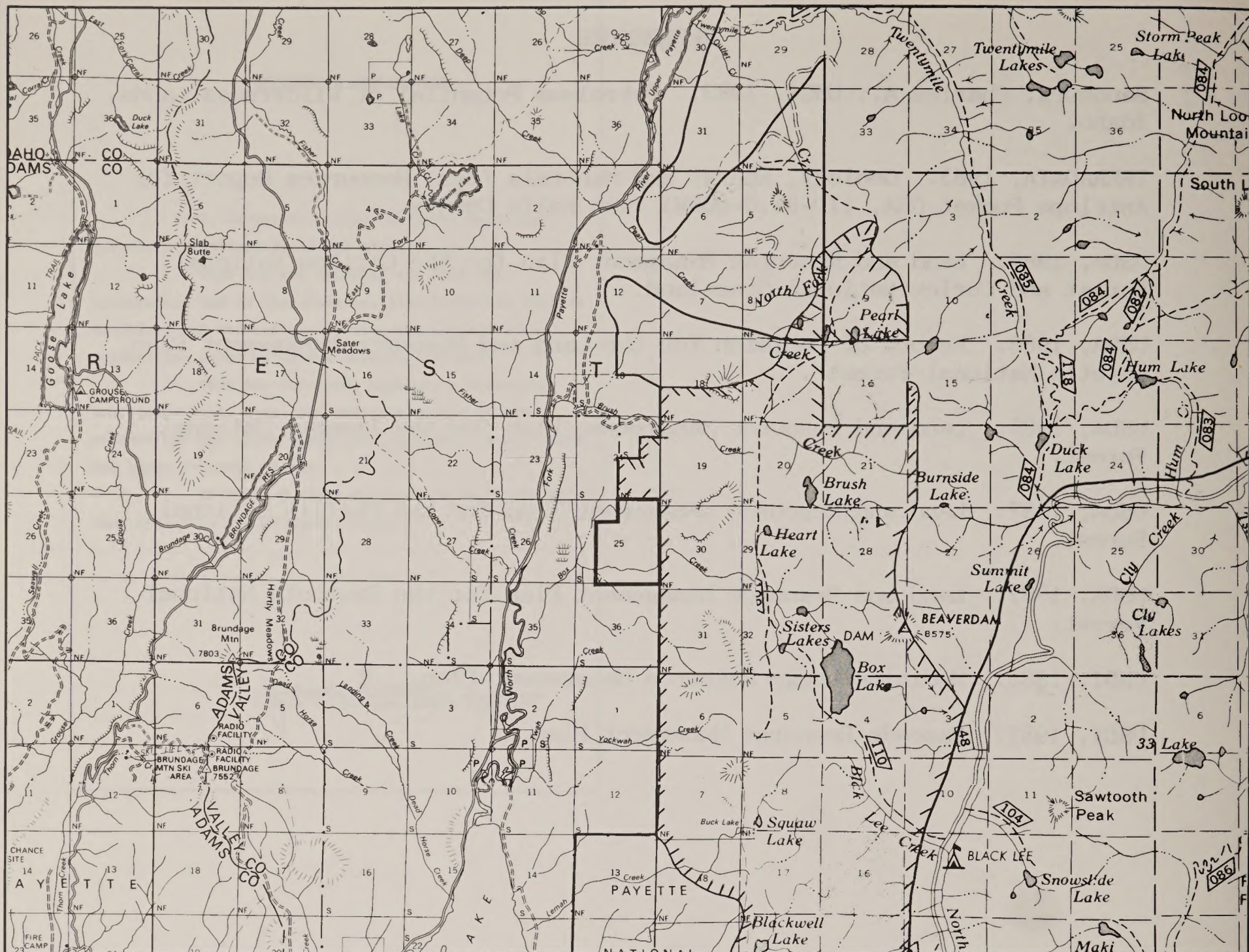
USDA, 1985. Land and Resource Management Plan for the Targhee National Forest.

USDA, 1987. Land and Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest.

USDA, 1987. Land and Resource Management Plan for the Sawtooth National Forest.

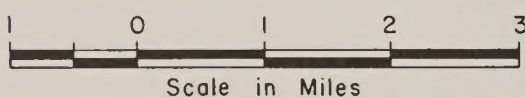
USDI, 1985. Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan.

USDI, 1987. Cascade Resource Managment Plan.



R. 2 E.

R. 3 E.



Scale in Miles

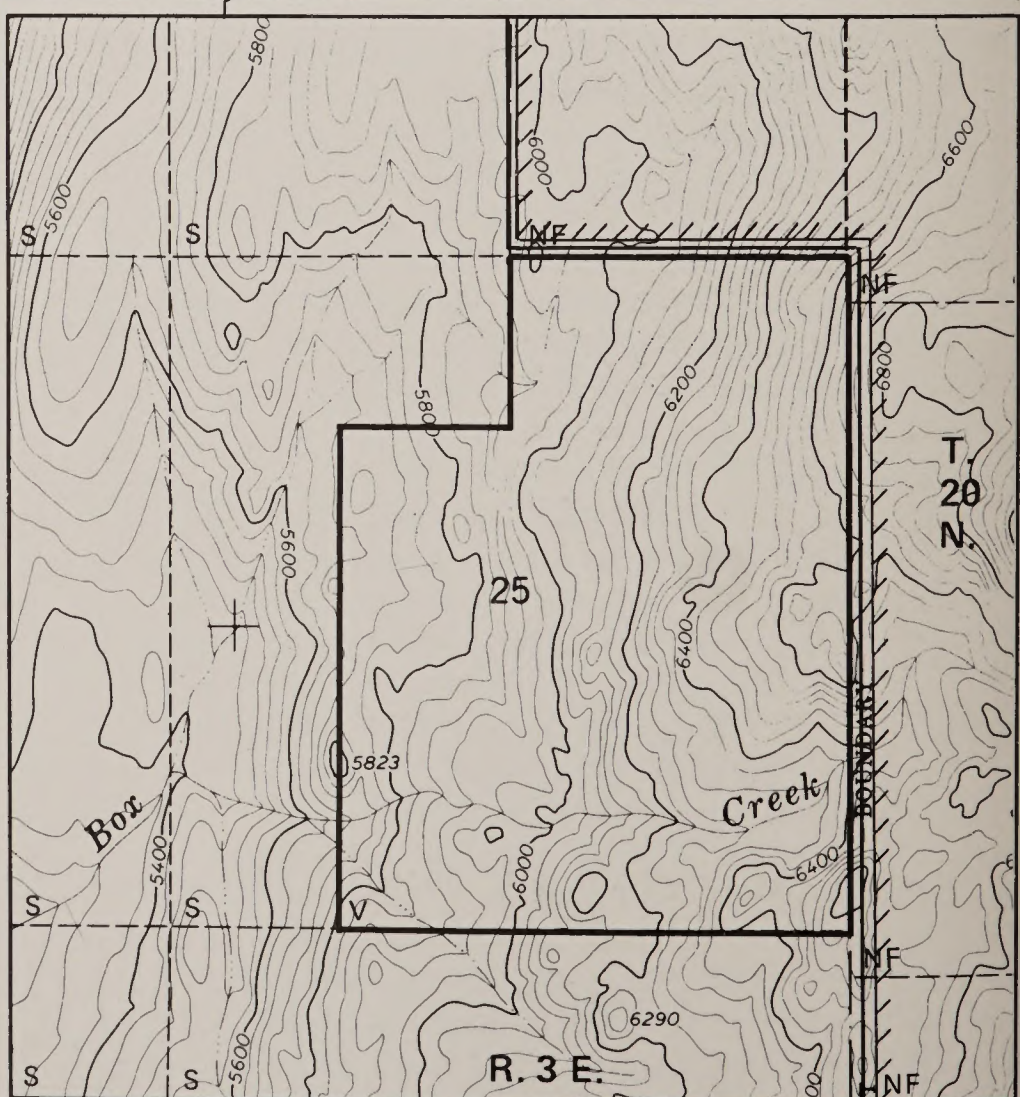
MAP 1

PROPOSED ACTION
NO WILDERNESS

- WSA Boundary
- /// U.S.F.S. Proposed Semi-Primitive Motorized Area
- U.S.F.S. Secesh Roadless Area #12010

LAND STATUS

- V Public
- S State
- P Private
- NF National Forest

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

FEET 1000

0

1000

2000

3000

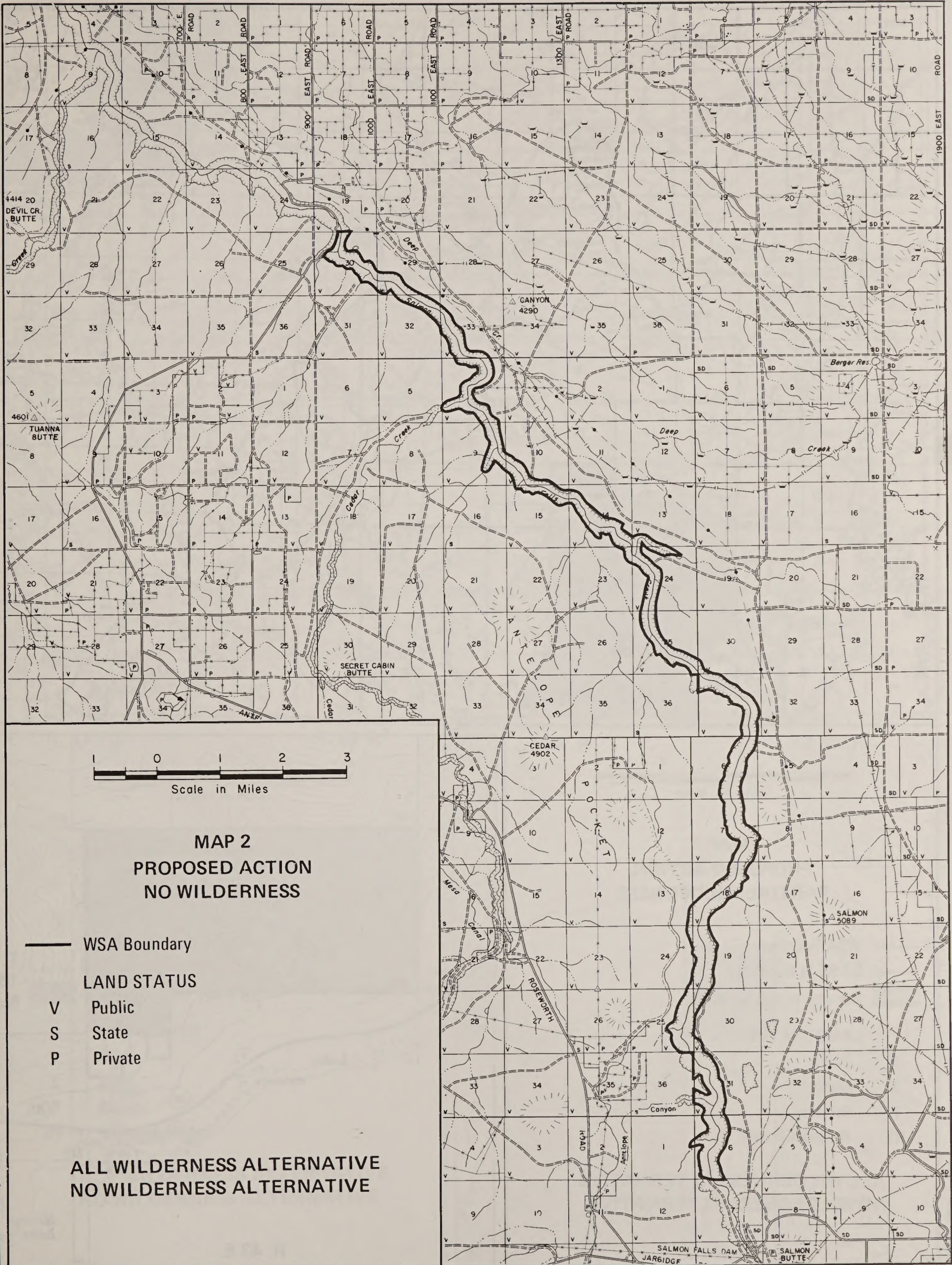
4000

5000

6000

7000

LOWER SALMON FALLS CREEK WSA ID-17-10



1 0 1 2 3
Scale in Miles

MAP 2
PROPOSED ACTION
NO WILDERNESS

- WSA Boundary
- LAND STATUS
- V Public
 - S State
 - P Private

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

R. 13 E.

R. 14 E.

R. 15 E.

T. 11 S.

T. 12 S.

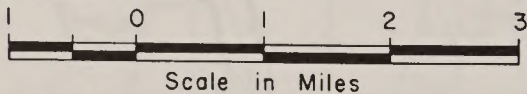
T. 13 S.

T. 14 S.



R. 42 E.

R. 43 E.



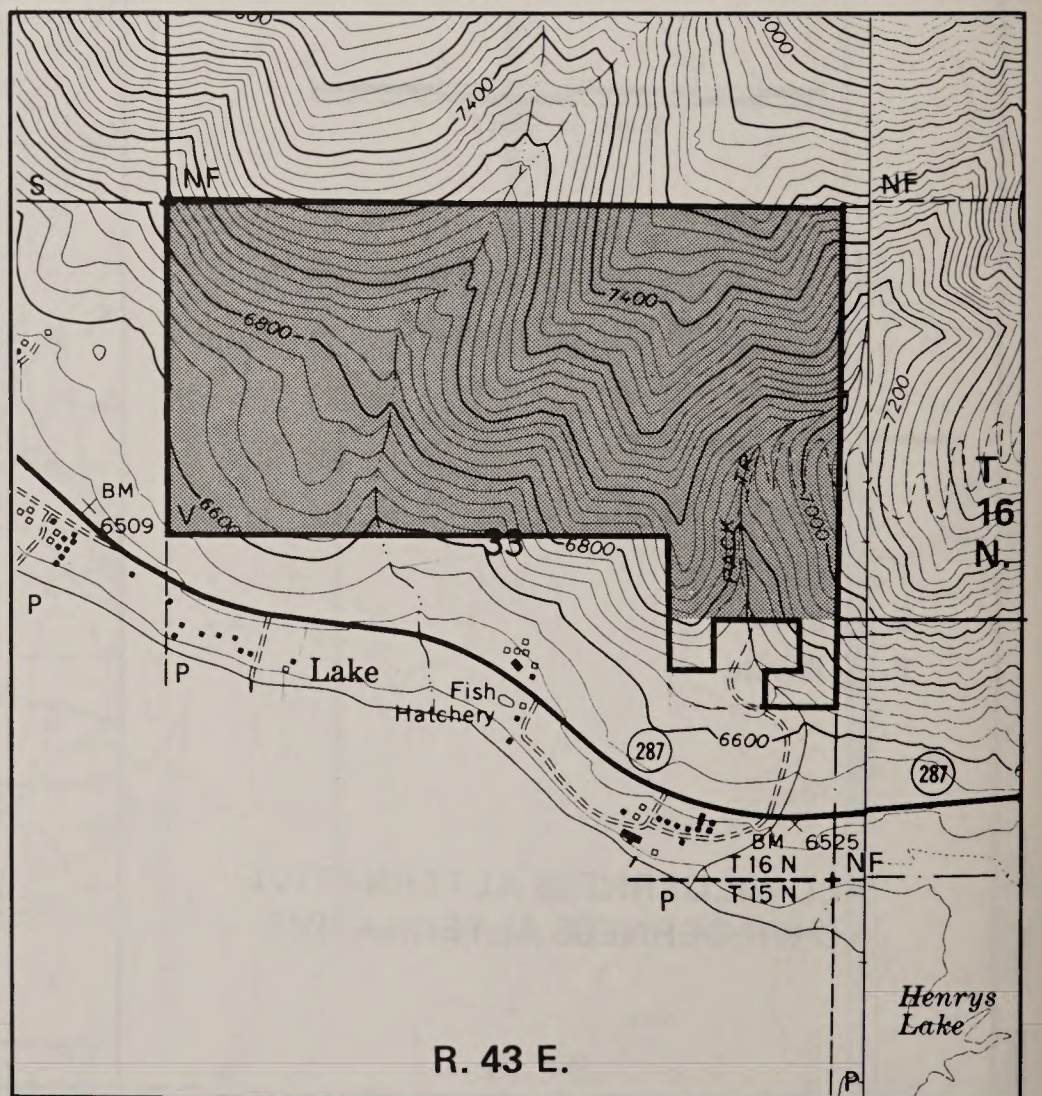
MAP 3
PROPOSED ACTION
PARTIAL WILDERNESS

- WSA Boundary
- RARE II Boundary
- Recommended Suitable

LAND STATUS

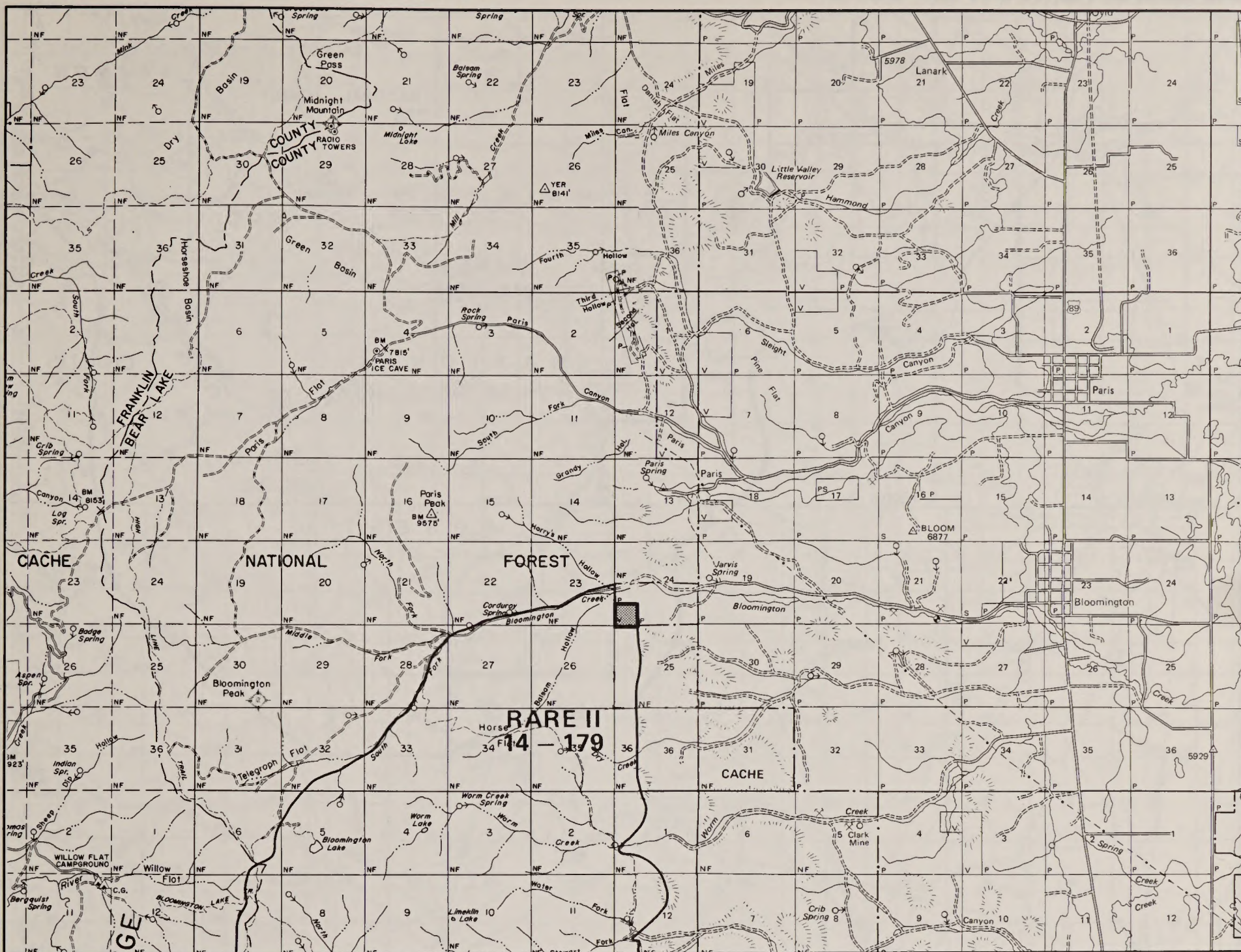
- V Public
- S State
- P Private
- NF National Forest

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE



R. 43 E.

FEET 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000



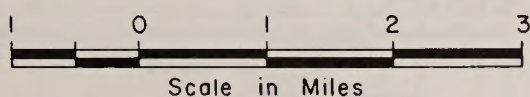
T. 13 S

T. 14 S

T. 15 S

R. 41 E.

R. 42 E.



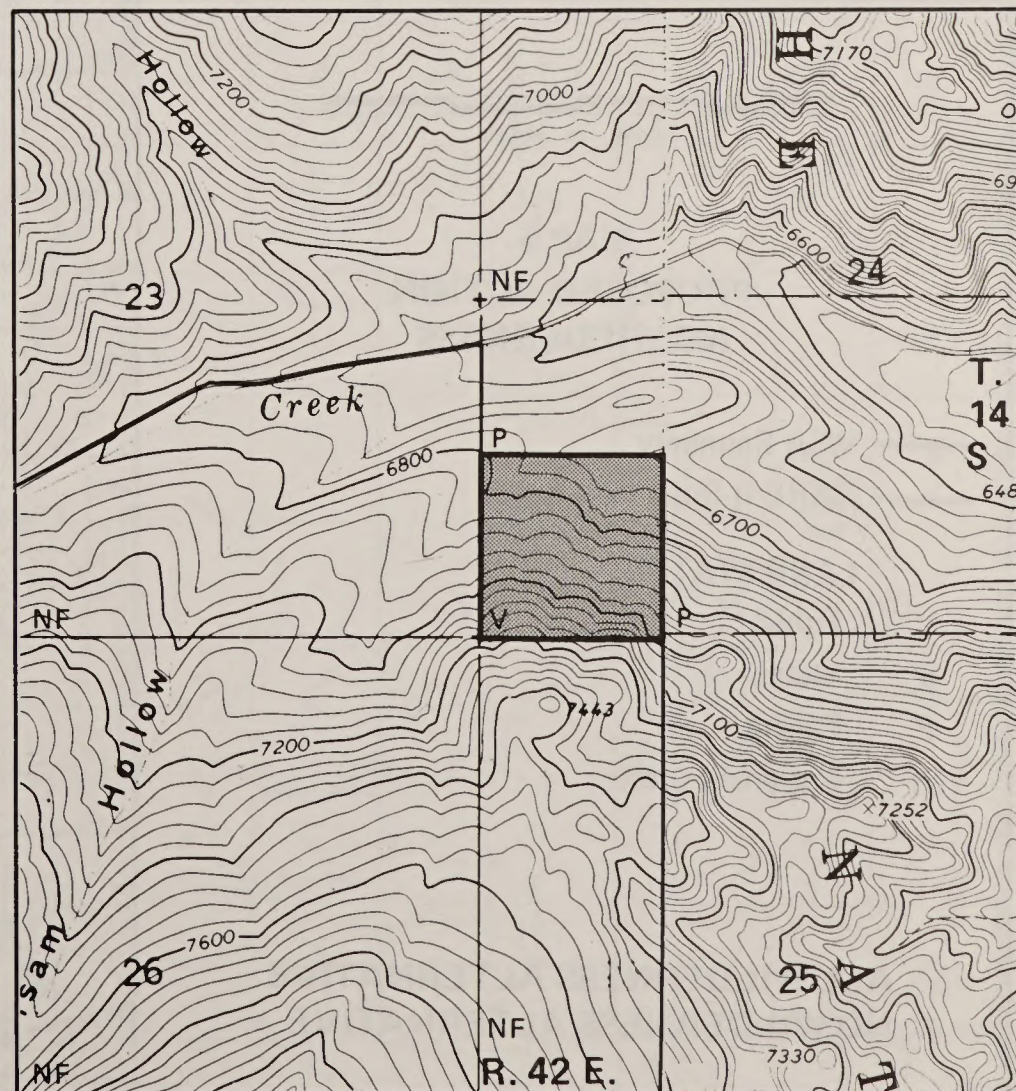
**MAP 4
PROPOSED ACTION
ALL WILDERNESS**

- WSA Boundary
- RARE II Boundary
- Recommended Suitable

LAND STATUS

- V Public
- S State
- P Private
- NF National Forest

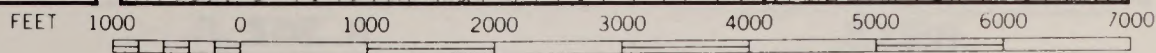
**ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE**

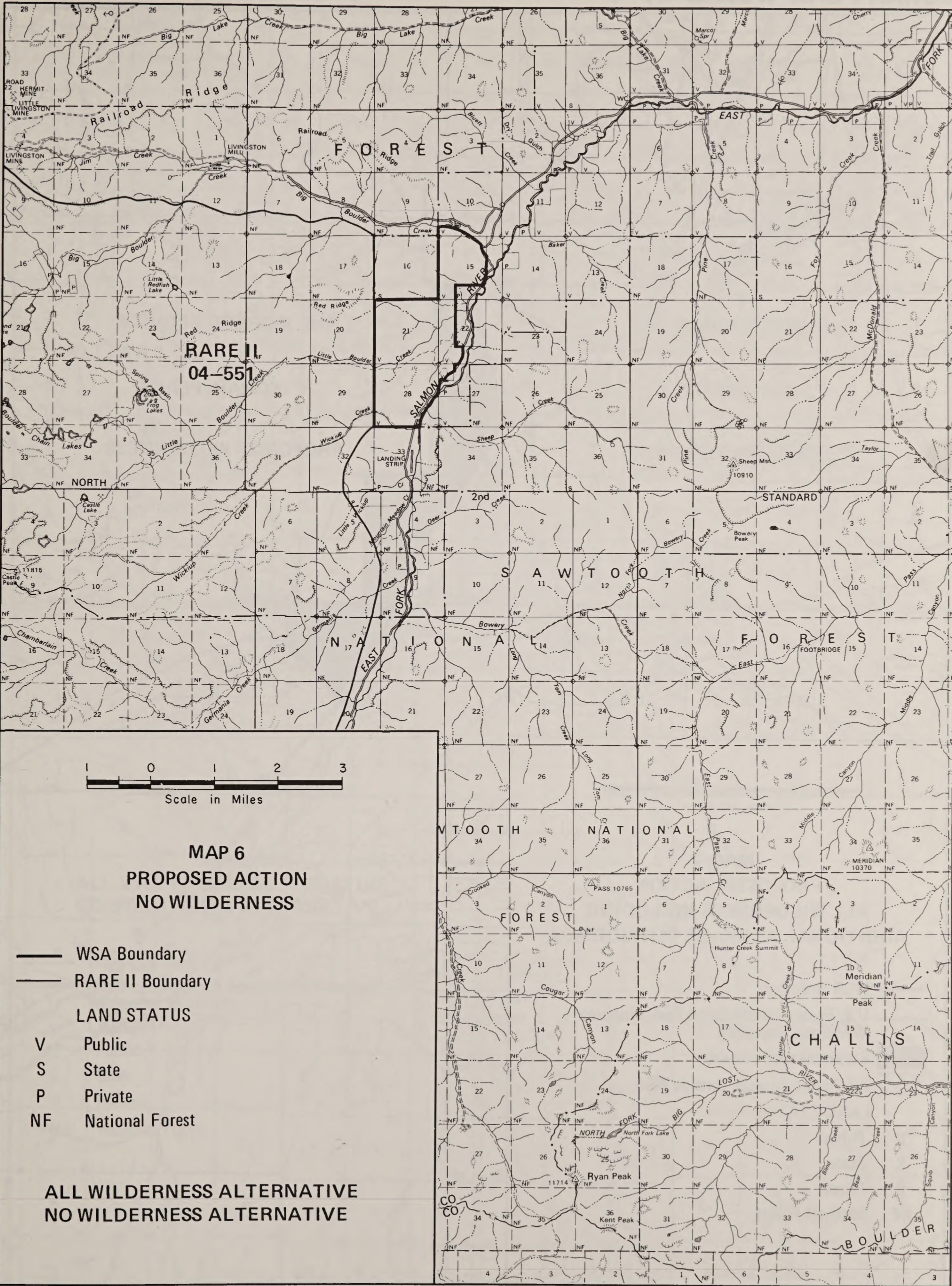


T. 14 S

T. 15 S

R. 42 E.





T. 10 N.

T. 9 N.

T. 8 N.

T. 7 N.

Scale in Miles

MAP 6
PROPOSED ACTION
NO WILDERNESS

- WSA Boundary
- RARE II Boundary
- LAND STATUS
 - V Public
 - S State
 - P Private
 - NF National Forest

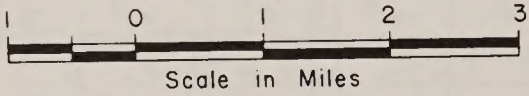
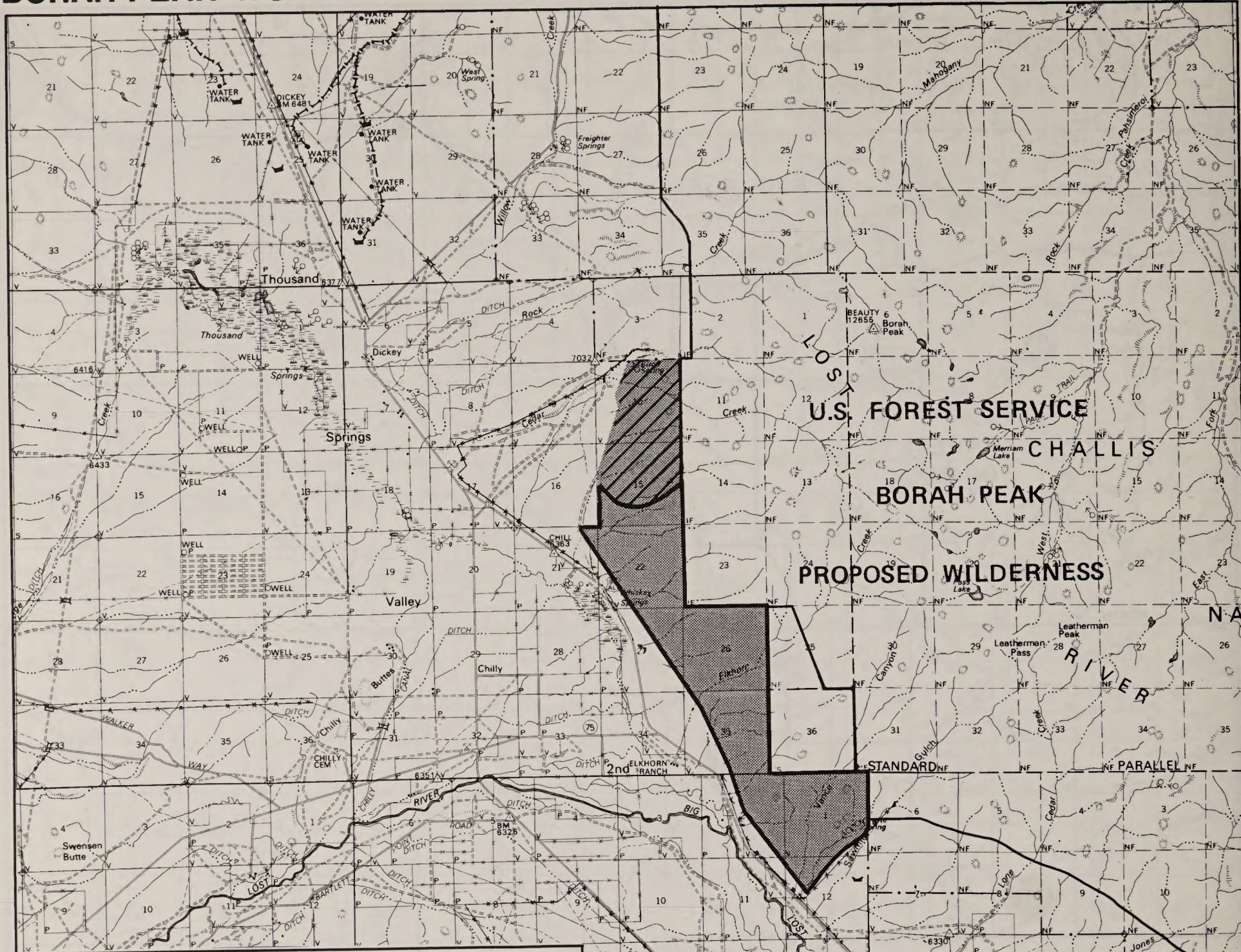
ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

R. 16 E.

R. 17 E.

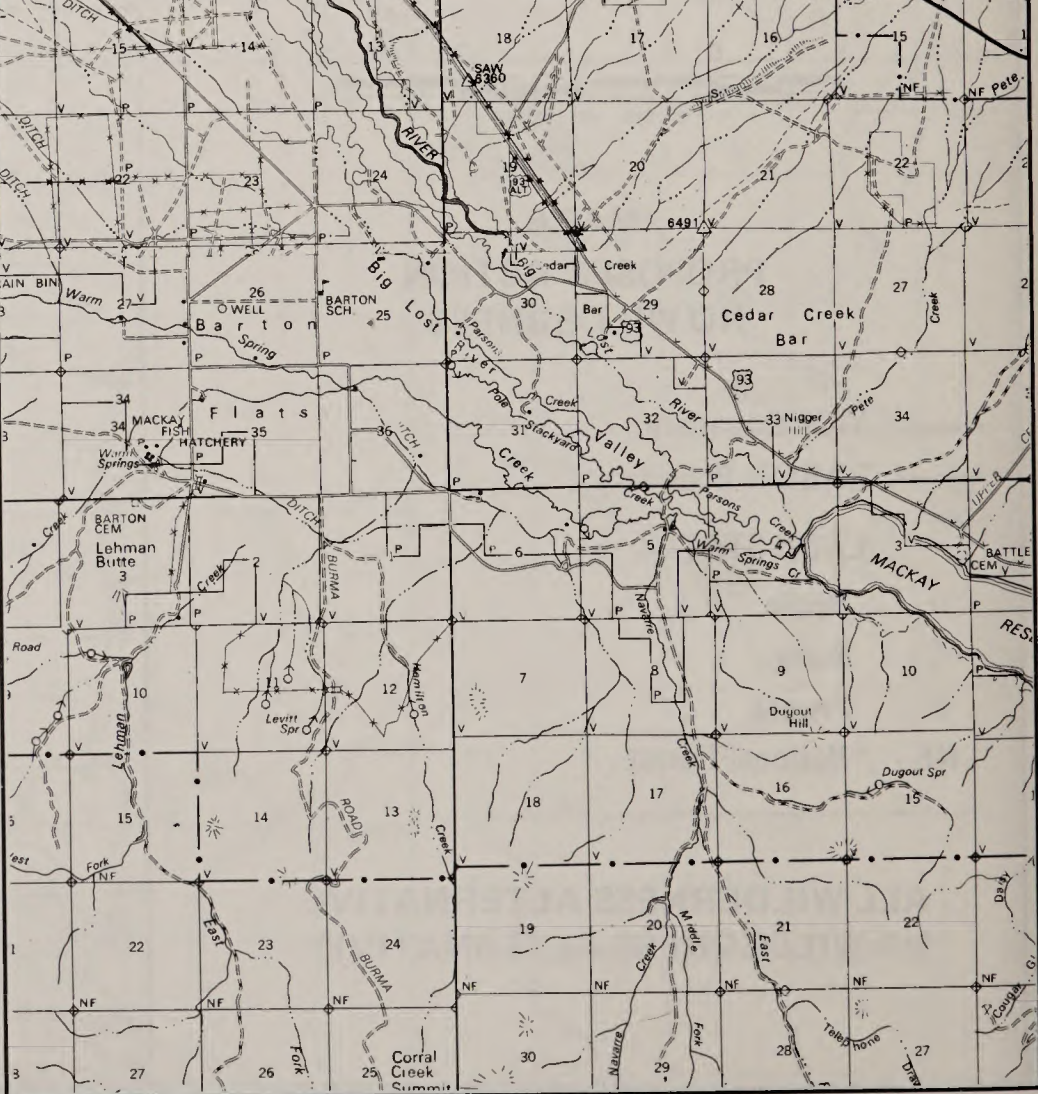
R. 18 E.

BORAH PEAK WSA ID-47-4



MAP 7
PROPOSED ACTION
ALL WILDERNESS INCLUDING
ADDITIONAL ACREAGE OUTSIDE WSA

- WSA Boundary
 - U.S. Forest Service Borah Peak Proposed Wilderness Boundary
 - Recommended Suitable
 - ▨ Additional Acreage Outside WSA
- LAND STATUS
- V Public
 - S State
 - P Private
 - NF National Forest



R. 21 E.

R. 22 E.

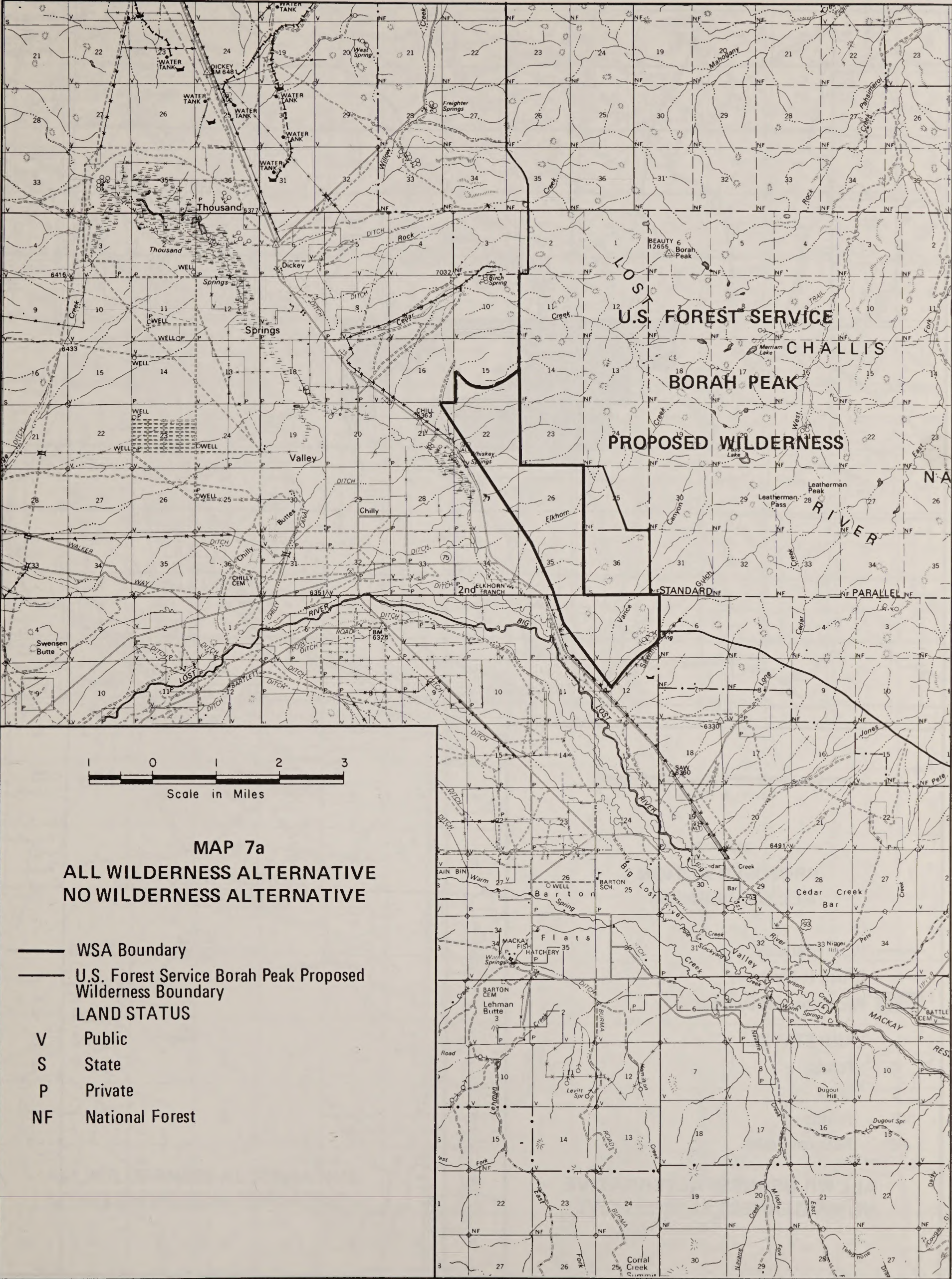
R. 23 E.

T. 10 N.

T. 9 N.

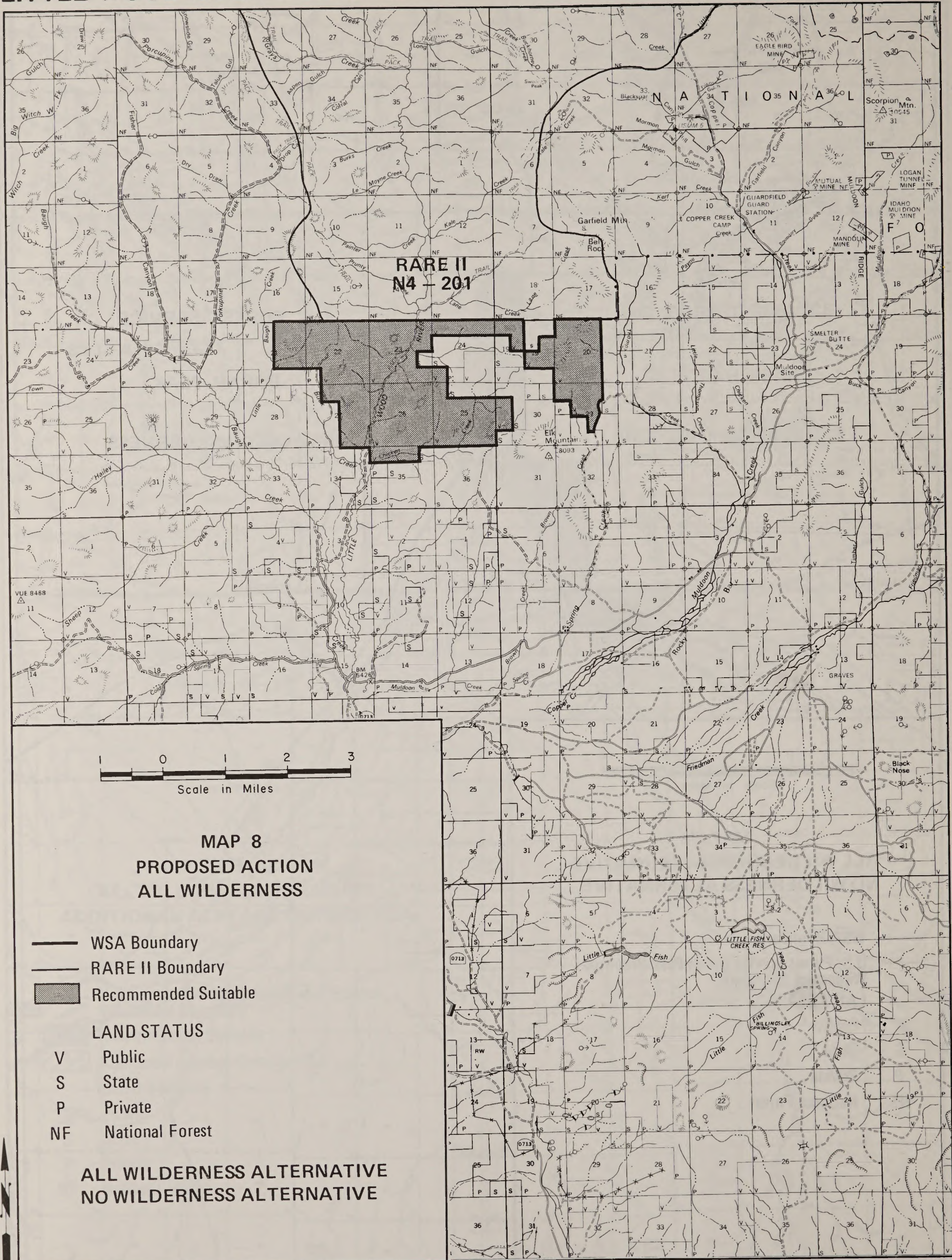
T. 8 N.

T. 7 N.

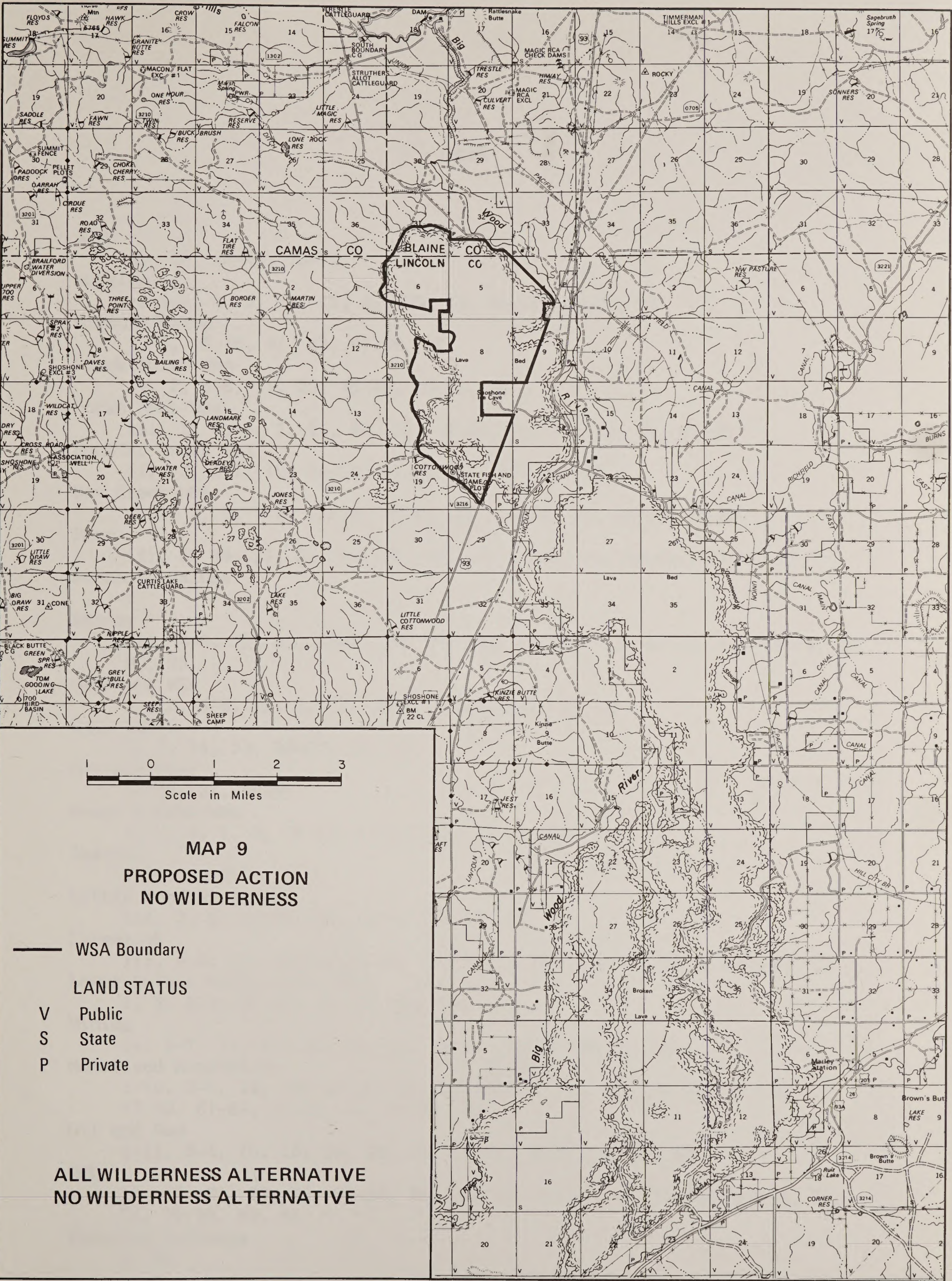


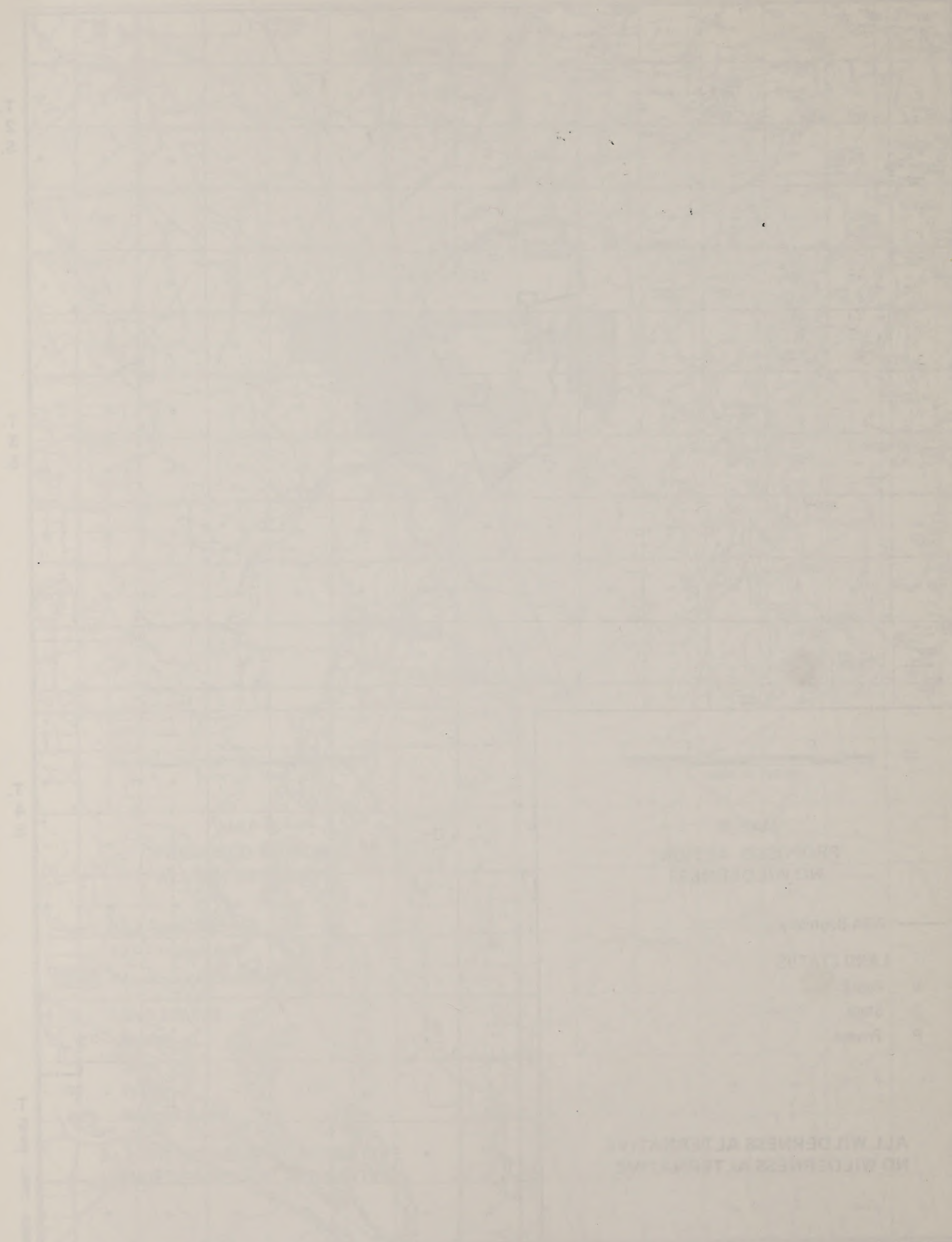
MAP 7a
ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

- WSA Boundary
- U.S. Forest Service Borah Peak Proposed Wilderness Boundary
- LAND STATUS
 - V Public
 - S State
 - P Private
 - NF National Forest



BLACK BUTTE WSA ID-54-2





ALL WILDERNESS AREAS
NO WILDERNESS ATTEMPT

LAND STATUS

PRIVATE LAND
NATIONAL FOREST

T
1
S

T
2
S

T
3
S

T
4
S

INDEX

ACEC

iv, 28, 44-45, 75-77

Antelope

ii-iii, 4, 5, 22, 27, 33, 39, 43, 65-66, 70-72, 74

Bighorn Sheep

i, 3, 15-16, 41, 43, 57-58, 87

Black Butte WSA

iv, 2, 5-6, 11, 29, 46-48, 78-79, 90

Borah Peak WSA

iii, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 25, 27, 42-43, 70, 72, 74, 82, 91-92

Boulder Creek WSA

iii, 2, 4-7, 10, 23-24, 41-42, 67, 69, 82, 92

Box Creek WSA

i, 2, 3, 5, 7-8, 12-14, 30-32, 49, 51-55, 81, 89-90, 92-93

Deer

iii, 5, 14, 27, 32, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43-46, 51, 70-72, 74-75, 77

Economic Values

6

Energy

iii, 4-6, 12, 21, 23-27, 32, 34, 38, 41, 45, 64, 68-69, 71, 73-74, 89, 90, 93

Goldburg WSA

ii, 2, 4-5, 10, 21-22, 39-41, 64-65, 82, 92, 94

Gray Wolf

3, 7, 14, 33, 52-53, 55, 93

Grizzly Bear

7, 35, 37, 58-61

Henry's Lake WSA

i, 2, 3, 7, 9, 17-18, 35-37, 58, 60-61, 82

Issues

i-iv, 2, 81

Little Wood River WSA

iii, 2, 5, 10-11, 28, 44-45, 75-77, 82, 89

Livestock

iii, 4-6, 21, 23-27, 40-42, 44, 56-58, 68, 70-71, 73, 75, 88-89, 91

Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA

i, 3, 6-8, 15-16, 33, 56, 81, 90

Mining

iv, 5-7, 11, 21, 23, 25, 29, 40-42, 45-48, 78-79, 89

Motorized Recreation

i-iv, 3-5, 14, 16, 19-20, 22, 24, 27-29, 35, 41, 43, 45, 47, 51, 57-59, 61-69, 71-72, 74, 76-80, 89

Oil and Gas

i-ii, 3-4, 10, 15, 19, 32, 34, 38-42, 56-57, 63-64, 69

ORV

10, 13, 21, 23, 25, 27-28, 31, 37, 40, 44-45, 47, 51, 58, 68-69, 71, 73, 76-78, 80, 91

Planning Criteria

2, 81

Purpose and Need

1

RARE II

8, 10, 25, 30, 36-37, 40, 42-44, 64

Roadless Area

i-iii, 3-5, 8, 14, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27-28, 30-31, 49-50, 53-54, 59-62,
64-70, 72, 74, 76-77, 90

Threatened or Endangered Species

7, 33, 39, 55

Timber Harvest

i-iii, 3-5, 8, 10, 12-14, 19-20, 26-27, 30-31, 49-55, 61, 63-65,
71-73, 75, 89-90, 92-93

Water Quality

32, 41, 52, 55, 65-67, 69, 89, 92

Wilderness Values

i-iv, 1, 3-6, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27-29, 31, 33, 36, 38,
41-44, 46-47, 49, 53, 56-68, 70, 72, 74-79, 89-90

Work Creek WSA

ii, 2, 4, 6, 9, 19-20, 37-39, 62-64, 82, 90

BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 50, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IDAHO STATE OFFICE
3380 AMERICANA TERRACE
BOISE, IDAHO 83706

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INT-415

Book Rate